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HEAVEN'S METAL



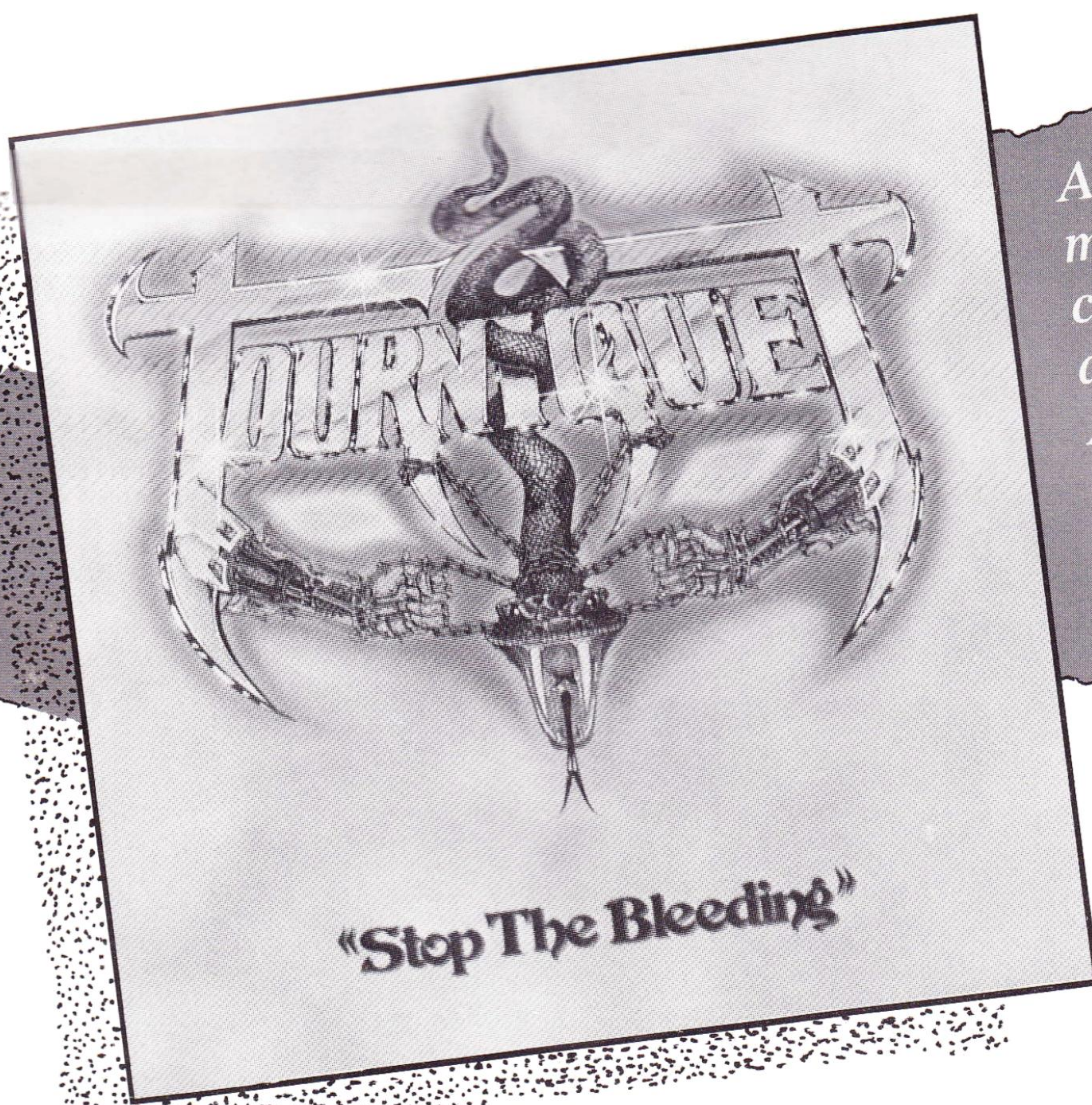
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HEAVEN'S METAL

Issue Number 28
February/March

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Heaven's Metal is a bi-monthly
magazine that covers the genre of Christian
heavy metal. Elvis is dead, so is Mary, and so is
Paul. Without Jesus they all shall perish.

Special thanks this issue to: Russell
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the Heaven's Metal reader.

There are a few Back Issues of HM
available. They are: #18 (Illinois Noize); #19
(Shout); #20 (Sacred Warrior); #21 (the rare
Rage Of Angels issue); #22 (Bloodgood); #23
(Vengeance); #24 (Holy Soldier); #25
(Whitecross); #26 (Magdallan); and #27 (De-
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GETTING INSANE WITH BELIEVER

By Doug Van Pelt

Kurt Bachman is a committed individual. He's not committed to a Pennsylvania state institution for the mentally ill, but to his Lord, his band, and his music. So, sit back, loosen up your white laboratory coat, and monitor this conversation between two patient people: myself and Kurt.

"What are we going to talk about this time?" asks Kurt.

****We'll talk about the new album.**

"Okay. There's three ballads on it."

****Where are the three ballads man? I've heard the album.**

"Oh, the first three songs. We didn't put any on side two, 'cause that'd be like copying Stryper. We don't want that. We all like this album better than the first one. What do you want to know about the album?"

****How 'bout the lyrics?**

"We wanted to touch on some subjects that we felt were not covered by any other band out there. I think the lyrics on this album are a lot better too. We took a lot more time on the lyrics. We went about it the same basic way, you know, as far as using direct scripture and stuff as much as we possibly could.

"The first song, 'Sanity Obscure,' deals with the end times, and signs that we can see but others don't. The next song, 'Wisdom's Call' is about wisdom and trying to find it and the importance of wisdom from God. The quest for wisdom. We have to go after that. 'Non Point' is about the environment. It addresses the abuse we have done to this planet, like with the rain forests being cut down and not replanted, and corrupting the air. Then the song kind of switches around and changes meaning at the end by talking about the pollution that corrupts our soul. It's probably the most technical song on the album, as far as time changes and stuff like that goes.

"'Idols Of Ignorance' talks about idolatry from a number of angles, including how money can influence you to do wrong things. 'Stop The Madness' deals with drug abuse. It talks about how totally wrong and bogus and insane it really is. I hear that Road Racer wants to use that song. They have a little message inside all their albums, and it says 'Stop the madness!' They support this campaign that started in England to stop the use of hard drugs. They want to use our song in a radio campaign.

"We have the song 'Diesaries,' which is like an Opera-type thing with violins and stuff in it. It's a requiem, which is like a death mass we wrote. It's all in Latin. We took bits and pieces from a lot of Mozart's Requiem. The translation's in the album. It's pretty neat. We have a song called 'Dust To Dust.' It has to do with the meaninglessness of

our labor here on earth, and the meaninglessness of a lot of things without God. From dust you came, and you're gonna return to dust. Whatever the work you do, you labor in vain. We took a lot of that from Ecclesiastes. Then we have the cover tune (laughs). It's U2's 'Like A Song.'"

****What inspired you to do that?**

"There's a lot of bands, like Dark Angel did a Zeppelin cover...even Vengeance did a Deep Purple cover. A couple of bands have done Black Sabbath covers and stuff, and they're all, like, old metal bands that they did covers of. We wanted to do something kind of different, you know. We feel that U2 is a really great band. Their lyrics are really cool. We didn't want to do one of their popular songs. We wanted to do one that we liked, that was kind of still underground. So, we picked the 'War' album and the song 'Like A Song,' because when you listen to the original, you can hear a lot of potential stuff that we could add to make it a Believer song, like some double bass parts and a heavy feel. We all like the tune, and we just decided to do it. People think we're weird because we did 'Stress,' and stuff like that, so we thought we'd do a U2 song and be a little bit more weirder. Plus, we'll probably be touring with them (laughter). No.

"People thought we were weird...so we thought we'd do a U2 song and be a little bit more weird."

"The title 'Sanity Obscure' really fits this album. We're gonna have an abstract art piece for the album cover. We wanted to avoid the confusion people had on our 'Extraction From Mortality' cover. We didn't want any message to be in this cover. We want our ministry to be the lyrics, you know. We want people to find out what 'Sanity Obscure' means by reading the lyrics to that song. Plus, the abstract artwork kind of fits our whole thing, as far as being weird and...insane. We wanted to be different...instead of all these gory thrash albums you don't understand. We wanted to take a different approach, since this album we feel is a little more technical than the last one. There's a little bit more thought out parts, and Joey goes off a lot more on the drums."

****How do you guys write material? What's the process you go through?**

"Well, what we usually do is the guitar players, Dave and I, will come up with a riff. Like, Dave will usually show me a riff and Joey and I will sit down for a couple of nights. I'll play the riffs and Joey will work on a beat for 'em. Joey basically arranges the songs. Sometimes he gets song ideas in his head that he'll sing to me, and I'll play it. After the verse part and the chorus parts are written, we'll go about writing the lyrics.

"There was some times where Joey and I would take one or two hours just to get a beat for a song. That makes us feel pretty good, that we were taking our time writing the music. We were careful to get the music to where we wanted it to be. We didn't want to be over technical, simply because we didn't want to totally change our style. We wanted to progress to the point where it is more technical. Onto the next album...I don't know. It could be some sort of jazz/thrash or something. (laughter)"

****Did you receive any pies in the mail as a result of the last interview we did?**

"Yeah, we actually did. We got a Lemon Creme Pie. So, thanks a lot, you know, for keeping us alive and well fed. That was pretty cool."

****Have you guys made any money at music?**

"Uh, yeah, we have. I mean, right now we aren't full-time yet; which we don't really want to be at this point. We want to wait a little more, until our albums get more circulated. Plus the Road Racer deal, you know, that should push us out the door as far as secular and Christian stores, we should be hitting every store. Who knows what the Lord has in store for us in the future. We don't really care, actually. It's on His shoulders. The money thing...it's like, we're definitely not in it for the money. I mean, we're a Christian thrash band. There's actually not too much money, but we feel called to do that, 'cause we feel like that area hasn't been hit, especially in the secular realm. As far as the money scene, you know, we get by, and that's all we ask.

"Hopefully some day we'll be able to support a family and make it our living. That would be great, but it's whatever He wants. Any money we've seen so far has come from doing shows and selling merchandise at the show, things like that."

****Do you have any raging new T-shirts in mind?**

"Well, there's like two or three artists that are kind of like in competition that





Dave & Kurt (Photo by Steve Craig)

want to do stuff for T-shirts. They're really good too, so we're gonna wait and see. The album's due out in January. We're thinking they should be full-color Metallica-type T-shirts. We're gonna wait and see who will put up the money for the shirts and stuff."

****Who else does Road Racer distribute?**

"King Diamond, Sepultura, Annihilator, Obituary, and more bands that are kind of underground."

****How did the Road Racer thing come about?**

"Doug sent 'em a demo tape before 'Extraction' even came out. He sent 'em out to Atlantic and Road Racer and a couple of other labels. We didn't hear anything, but Monty Conner, the A&R guy from Road Racer, heard it and really liked it. He wanted to sign us before Extraction came out, but he lost all the information with the tape (which goes to show you bands: always put a contact name and phone number on the tape shell itself--ed). Then, when the album came out and stuff, about six months later, he called a Christian radio station and they put him in touch with Doug Mann. That's kind of how the whole thing got started. There's rumors that they might put 'Extraction' out later too."

****What's your musical set-up? What kind of gear do you have?**

"Dave and I have almost the same set-ups. We use Marshall amplification. We use Charvel-Jackson guitars. We use Digitech equalization equipment, like rack-mounted

type stuff. BBD Sonic Maximizers, DBX Noise Gate, Noise Reduction, Compressor, Limiters, BOD eq's. That's what we use. Wyatt, our bass player, uses Galien Krueger amplification, and Ibanez basses. Joey uses Tama drums and Paiste cymbals."

****How do you guys keep your chops up?**

"Well, we listen to a lot of stuff. We feel it's real important to listen to the bands that we feel we're in competition with, you know, like Kreator, Destruction, Watchtower, and bands that basically, you know, pretty much blow us away musically. They're ultra-technical and that makes us wanna gain more knowledge, so that we can compete with those bands, so that people will wanna hear our message, also."

"We got a Lemon Creme pie."

"We feel that we have the greatest message in the world. We have to play intense music and know what these kids are into. We really look at bands and ask, 'Why is Metallica so big?' A couple reasons why are: their lyrics are really deep and thought out; their music has a lot of different time changes and parts to it; and the guitar melodies and stuff. You basically need to do your homework. That way, your project will probably sound 10 times better, and your message will probably sound 10 times better to the people listening to it."

"We practice twice a week right now, because we're getting ready for shows. When an album's coming up, we'll practice for a couple months on a two to three times a week basis. We don't like to practice as a band a lot before an album, simply because, when you do an album, you're not playing as a full band. You'll do drum sections, and then you'll go in and play your guitar sections... So, I mean, a lot of it depends on individual work also. Getting the tune down in your head, knowing all the parts in your head. We feel that we should be able to sit down by ourselves, tap our foot, and play the whole song. Then, when you get together as a band, and you have everybody doing that at home, you get real tight. It really works well. It's the 'Believer Secret.' For \$19.95, send in your...(laughs) That's basically how things work for us."

****How do the people at Road Racer feel about your faith?**

"They think it's cool and stuff. They have pretty much of a reputation of being the evil record label, you know, I mean, they have King Diamond and a lot of Satanic bands on the label. They feel like we're kind of a breath of fresh air. We don't have to compromise on any of our lyrics, or anything like that. In fact, they're going to market us as a regular thrash band, which is real cool. We really want to be known in that way. We're a thrash band; the only thing different is that we sing about God. We're Christians. We kind of give a choice to these people who have never even been in church, and stuff like that. We don't feel that we're the kind of band to go out and give sermons and stuff like that. We really don't feel called to do that. We don't feel that that's our end of the ministry. We'll play select Christian shows, because, you know, the Christians support us...and there's a lot of Christians that won't go to secular clubs to see us. We're talking to a big booking agency called ICM, and they agree with us. They're gonna get us both secular shows and Christian shows. We feel called to play in clubs, where there's kids that don't even know why Easter exists. We just wanna answer questions that they might have, and present to them a choice. We're also gonna play for Christians, because they get uplifted from our music. That's awesome, too. That's basically where Road Racer stands."

****Any parting comments for the readers?**

"Yeah, everybody out there, all the Christians and, you know, people who are struggling and stuff, just have faith in the Lord. He's gonna pull you through even the toughest situations. We're really witnesses to that. Stay with God. He's the greatest. He died for everyone out there. Just let your friends know about Him. We'll see ya'll on tour."

Look for Believer on the East Coast for scattered weekend dates in February, and a possible tour with fellow Road Racer act Sepultura in March. HM

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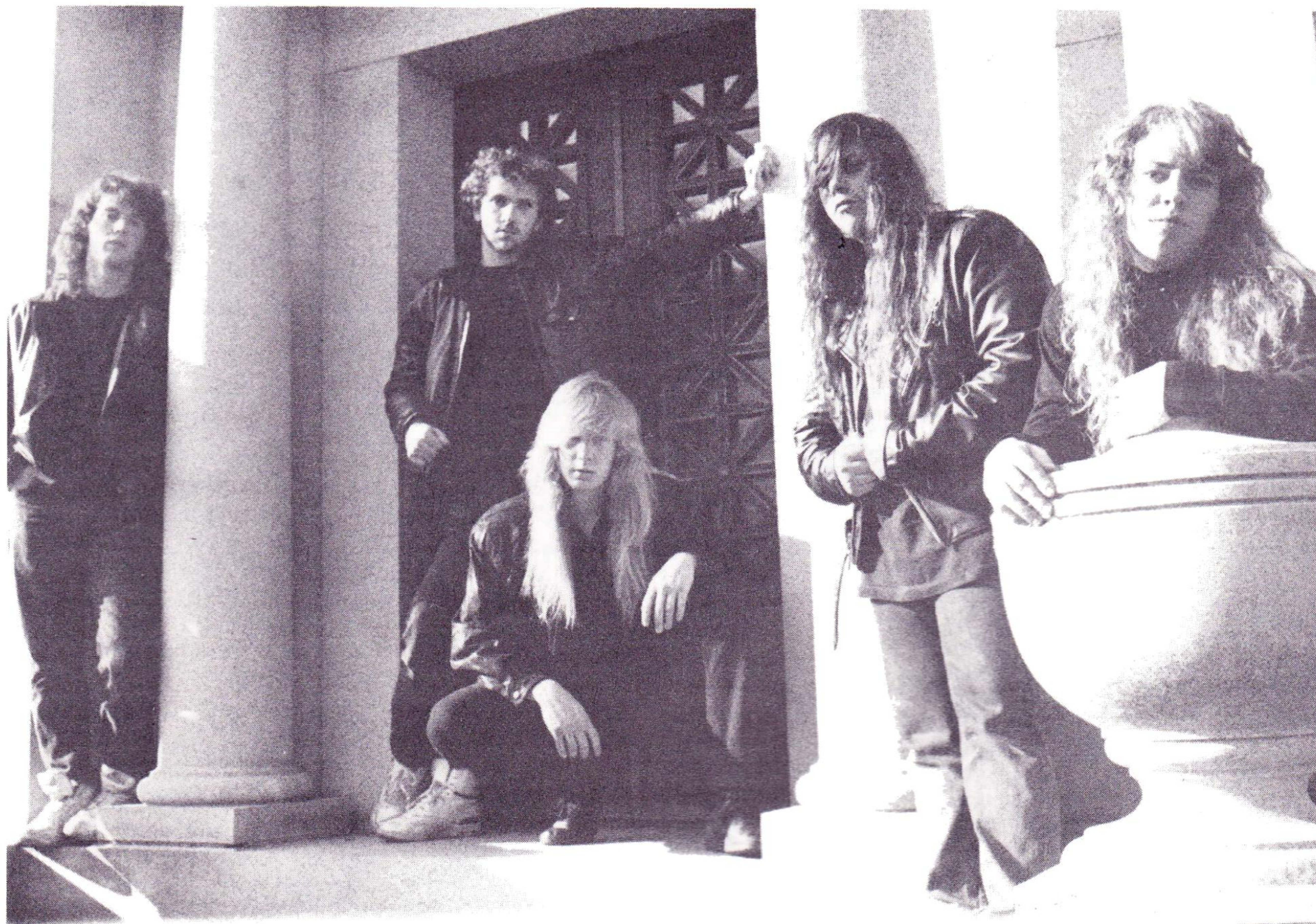
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HAVEN'S METAL

By Doug Van Pelt

HAVEN l to r: Ed Bruner, John Farrell, Timothy Benton, Kevin Ayers, Andrew Bruner



Haven, one of R.E.X. Record's exciting new bands, has hit the Christian metal scene full speed. Recently guitarist Andy Bruner and drummer Tim Benton were on the phone with Heaven's Metal, filling us in on who Haven is.

The band is currently made up of five young men. Originally a four-piece, John Farrell recently joined the group as a second guitarist--a change destined to fill out the band's aggressive and progressive sound. At 19, he works at nearby McGuire Air Force Base installing phone cables. The other four guys live in the same house. Tim is 19 and works with bass player Ed Bruner, also 19, at a silk-screen printing place called Fina's Finishing. "We print on metals, plastic, and stuff like that," explains Tim. Vocalist Kevin Ayers is the "old man" of the band. He's 27 and works at his brother's gold and jewelry store. Andy, 20, builds vacuums for podiatrists (foot doctors). "I build and repair 'em," explains Andy. "The doctor has these drills, and he cuts up toenails with 'em. I build the vacuums that suck up the toenail dust. The toenail has microbiotic germs that could cause an infection in your lungs or something. So, I protect people from microbiotic infections."

****How did you guys come together as a band?**

"I had just moved to New Jersey," says Tim, "and had hooked up with a youth group where I met Andy. We just started jamming around, and we got his brother, Ed, on bass. From there we just put an ad in a Christian bookstore, and Kevin answered that...and We're Haven."

****When did this happen?**

"In 1985," says Andy. "We didn't have any style, cause we weren't very good. We would just make up riffs and try to put 'em together."

"It was very unorganized," adds Tim. "Kevin came along and put order into everything, because he's been in the music business awhile."

****How did you guys get signed?**

"We don't know," laughs Tim. "At first, we made a demo tape a long time ago, and we were sending it to a couple of record companies...and, we didn't hear anything from 'em, so we just kind of put it aside. We figured, you know, that God didn't want us to have a record deal. Then, a little while later, some guy that we had barely known called us up and asked us if we wanted to go to Sacramento's signing party. We met up with Doug Mann and gave him our demo tape. From there, Doug

liked it and called us up and we did the record. It wasn't us, it was all God. We didn't plan on it. We didn't even know Sacramento. We had no idea who they were."

"God really hooked us up, man," adds Andy.

****How do you guys feel about your album?**

"Pretty cool," says Andy. "The Lord's really blessed us with it. He's blessed us in a lot of areas. It came out better than we expected. We weren't expecting a whole lot."

****Tell me about some of the things you think the Lord was wanting you to address on the album.**

"When Kevin and I were writing the lyrics," explains Tim, "we were just taking a look at what was going on--in our lives and the people that we know. A lot of the stuff on the album has to do with depression and death. I talked to a lot of people who think they have time. They procrastinate and try to put it off and stuff. We address the subject of 'What if you don't have any time left? How do you know what's going to happen to you after you die?' Everybody's interested in death, but they're scared to face it. I was in school when I was writing a lot of this, so I was talking to kids

everyday. This let me know all the problems that were going on with kids. I didn't get to address every subject that I wanted to, but basic ones like rebellion, and not having love. Kevin wrote a lot of personal things, such as self-depression and calling out to God and stuff. That's stuff he was going through. A lot of his songs were addressed to Christians as encouragement to them."

****Are you playing out much?**

"Not at the moment," says Andy. "We're kinda gettin' back in the groove. We took off three months after recording the album. We're just writing new tunes. We've got two new ones already."

"Of course," explains Tim, "we're working in the new guitar player. Every Friday night we also have what we call a jam session. We invite anybody who wants to come over, and we jam and have a big Bible study afterwards. We have all these people who aren't Christians over, and it's really cool. We mention it in our album credits. You drive by the house and there's all these cars and stuff outside."

"We've had close to 40 people over," explains Tim.

"We jam and then have a big Bible study afterwards...we've had over 40 people."

****What kind of equipment do you guys use?**

"I have a Jackson soloist guitar," says Andy. "We use Marshall amplification. John uses Ibanez and Kramer guitars, and Marshall amps. Ed uses a Guild bass and Peavey amps."

"I use Yamaha drums and Zildjian cymbals," says Tim.

"Kevin uses some wireless mike, and we have a peavey p.a."

****How is the added guitar gonna change your sound?**

"It's gonna make it heavier," predicts Tim. "John's a thrasher. He was big-time into Slayer and Metallica, but he adapted to our style. It'll be more intricate and aggressive, but we'll still have a lot of melody."

****What is on the horizon for Haven?**

"We don't know a whole lot about touring," says Tim. "We hadn't planned on touring for our first album, unless it was financially feasible. We don't wanna just jump in a U-haul and take off across the country. The first album was written quite a while ago, and we didn't have a style in mind, so we just started writing. We weren't very good musicians when we were writing. We just kept it simple. With our next album, I think we're quite advanced from the first, so I think it'll surprise people. We haven't written a whole lot of it, but from the talent that I see, it's gonna be a lot more mature. The style is gonna stay around the same range, except we're gonna go more around the lines of 'The Calling,' and 'Your Dying Day.' It's a more progressive and heavy sound. We're not gonna go thrash or anything. It'll be more melodic, yet heavy and progressive. I think we're really gonna showcase all of our talents on the next album."

****Do you guys all go to the same church?**

"Yeah."

****Do you have a relationship with your pastor or youth pastor?**

"We used to have meetings with our pastor about every month or so, but we haven't done that in a while. We have a good relationship with the youth group and stuff. The church really supports us. Our last concert was at the church, and the church paid for the p.a. system, the lighting--they paid for everything. They really support us. They're not a heavy metal church or anything, so having us to play there was really good."

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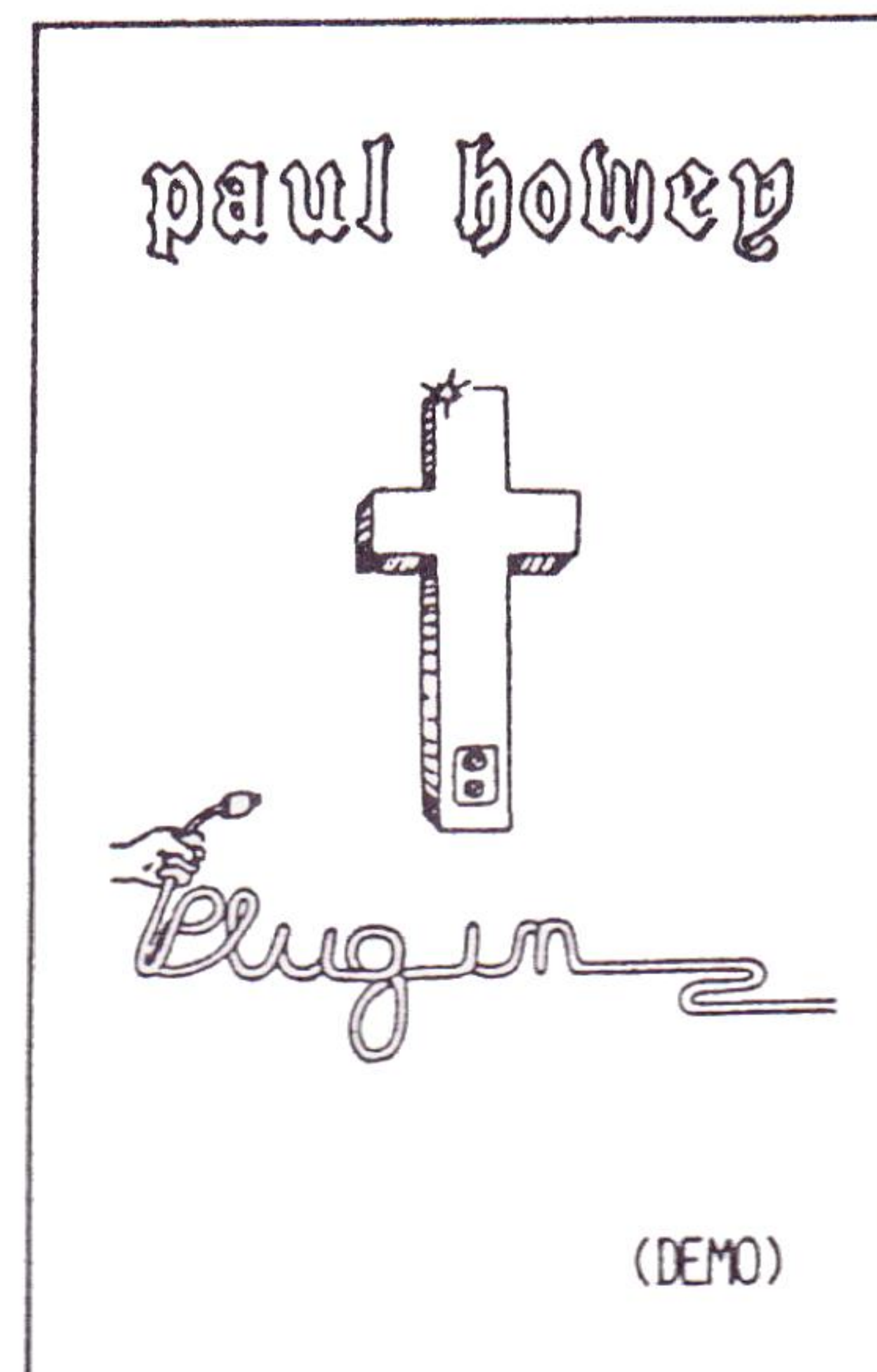
****Is there anything that's on your heart that you'd like to tell the readers of Heaven's Metal?**

"Jesus is always there," says Andy, "and God loves you so much that He sent His Son to die for you. He's just dying for you to get into heaven."

"A lot of people think of musicians," says Tim, "improperly. They put 'em on a platform. I would just like to tell the readers that we're nobody special. We're just people like them. We have the same problems, depression, and hurts as them. God is gonna help everyone. He will pull everyone out of their worst problems. I'd like the readers to focus on God and not us. God gave all this to us. It's not us, it's Him." **HM**

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KING'S X -- YOU CAN'T HELP BUT LOVE 'EM

By Doug Van Pelt

Heaven's Metal had the chance to sit down with Doug Pinnick just prior to the release of the band's third album--"Faith Hope Love By King's X." Listen in as we catch up with one of the most intelligent, articulate, and creative bands in rock and roll today.

******Tell me about the direction of this new album.

"Hmmm," ponders Doug. "I think what we all wanted to do in this album was to explore faith, hope, and love. When we named the album, Sam (Taylor--the band's manager and producer) said to us, 'Well, what do you guys think right now? What's the biggest thing that's on your mind? What's happening in your life?' Ty said, 'Well, faith.' I said, 'Hope,' and Jerry said 'Love.' Sam goes, 'Faith Hope Love, sounds like a title to me,' and we go, 'Cool.' So, we put our pictures in the same order on the insert according to who said what. This is what we're trying to do on this album. We're just being King's X, just writing the things that we feel.

"I think some of the lyrics have a lot to do with faith, hope, and love; and the others are just songs about things that have happened to us. Some of the songs are really out there, spiritually, and others have nothing to do with anything but what we went through that day, like the song 'Talk To You.' It was a letter I was writing to a friend in England, and the things that happened that morning while I was writing the letter. I thought, 'Hey, I might as well put it to lyrics.

"Ty wrote a song called 'Legal Kill,' about the sanctity of life, about how life is precious. I really like it, and we can't play it live. Kemper (Crabb) played flute and we had a cello player too. It's just guitar. There's no bass, no drums, and we all sing on it."

******A lot of the songs you write come out from inside of you. What was your guy's reaction when you saw what came out this time? It seems to be more overt--not a whole lot more, because there's always been songs like 'Shot of Love'...What's your reaction?

"I think it's just right for me. I've always wanted a balance, so people don't feel like they're getting preached at. The other albums, it was a subtle way that we spoke our faith. It was a way that I think people could hear it and not feel like I was being some kind of evangelist or something....where they'd just go, 'Oh! Well, that's cool. He's saying these things.' Hopefully, it puts a spark in them. In my mind, it's been sort of an even thing on the first two records. On this album, I wanted to get a little more drastic. I wrote a couple of songs that don't have anything to do with the Lord at all, and on the other hand, we wrote 'Faith Hope Love,' which basically says, 'I believe the Word,' and 'He is alive.' I just felt like I got bold there, but on the other hand

there was songs like 'Talk To You' and 'Mr. Wilson' and stuff like that, so maybe a person listening to that record, rather than feeling like they're getting preached at in certain songs, they would just take the whole picture and say, 'This is King's X and this is who they are,' and use it as food for whatever God wants them to use it as. That's what I feel like today this music is doing.

"The cover's pretty upfront, but yet it isn't at the same time. I shouldn't say isn't. I want to believe it's artistic. I've always believed that if you take the gift God's given you and be artistic with it, God can shine through it so easily, rather than having to struggle through something that's bad art and putting Jesus on it.

"A friend of mine asked me one time, 'When you go to the laundry, do you go because they're Christians, or because they do a good job? If I go to a laundry because they do a good job, and then I find out that they're Christians, that makes it more special. But, if you go to a laundry because you know they're Christians, and they're not good at what they do, then what purpose is that?'"

"Not everyone can play an instrument, but everybody thinks they can sing, so they gravitate towards vocal harmonies."

******It makes you mad.

"Yeah, it does. That's the whole point I'm making with the album cover. We're trying to make a piece of art, and we so happen to be Christians, and it shines through real clear. I think if it's good art and people like it, they will see what's inside it."

******Would you care to elaborate on the song "Mr. Wilson?"

"All Mr. Wilson is, is a man, who--by his own admission--has become an enemy of ours. We don't understand why."

******What's the line at the end about going to Japan?

"The last line is: 'Lay the pipe, the apple's ripe, I'm going to Japan. Is that good enough?' In other words, 'Go ahead and stick it to me. I've got other things to do. Go ahead and hate me. I've done everything I could to make this right. You do what you have to do. We're going on with our lives. We don't understand, but you gotta let things go,' ya know."

******How did the video shoot for "It's Love" go?

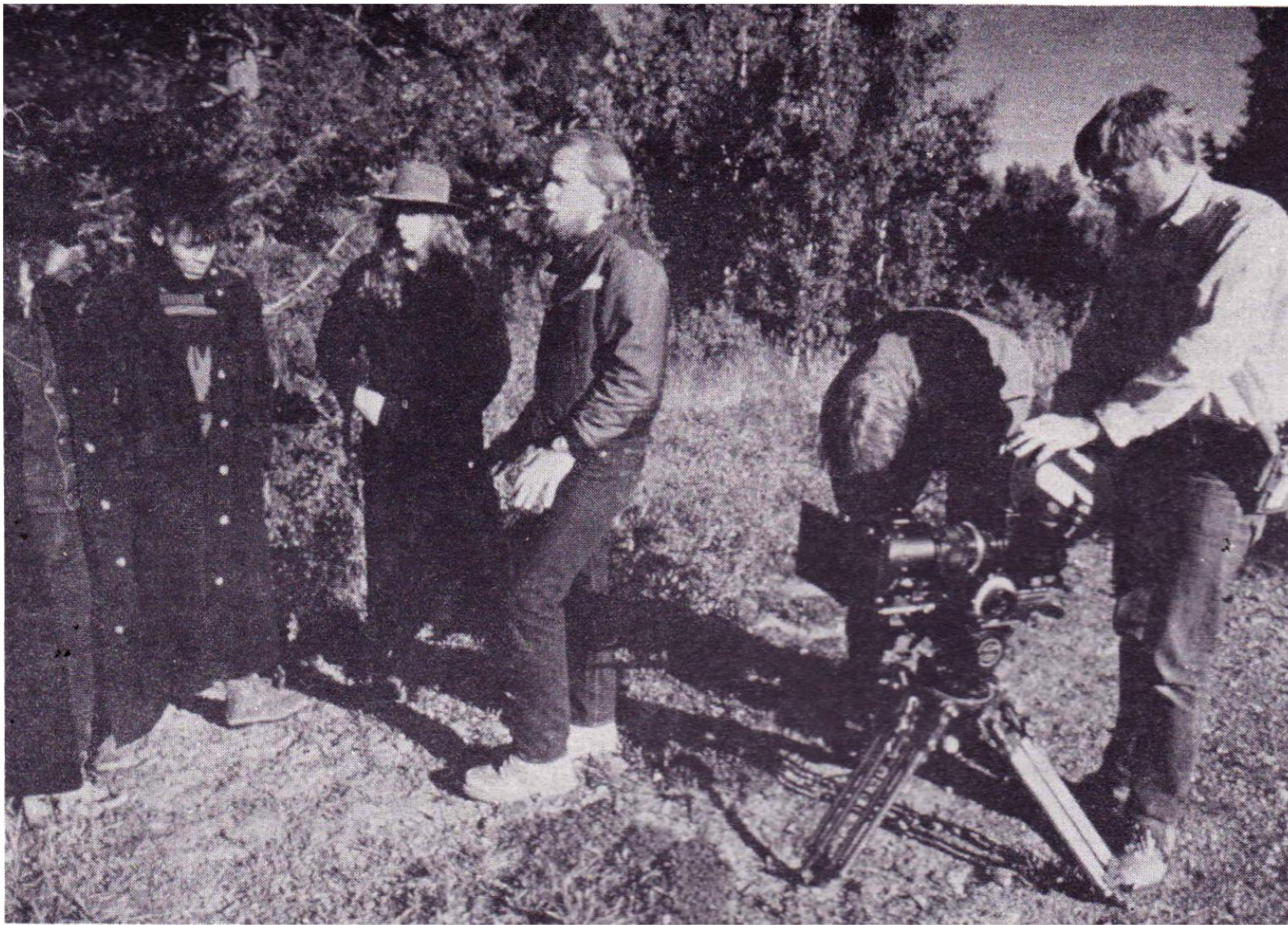
"For me the shoot was a real big drag. It was up in the mountains. It was cold at night and hot in the day, and we had to wear the same clothes. One minute I was sweating to death, the next minute I was freezing to death. We had to get up at 4 in the morning, with a helicopter to take us to this mountain about 20 miles outside of the city, to some little peak, which is so high off the ground and there's no civilization around... So, here we are, standing on top of this little mountain, with barely enough room to get the helicopter down. That was pretty scary. Then we went up above the tree line, to get some scenes going up to the cabin, and you can't breath up there, and you start to get kind of drunk when you don't have enough air. My friend, who is from Ireland, came with us, and he started stumbling all over the place and laughing and giggling.

"I don't like doing videos. I never did, because I'm not an actor. I like playing music. It wasn't fun to me. Videos are never fun to me. They're a lot of work. But, I can't complain. There's a lot of people that wish they could do videos, so I've got to count my blessings--a lot.

"It took us 10 days to do it. Ty flew to Florida to do a part of it on the beach. That's where Jerry comes out of the water. Poor Jerry. He had to stand in a tub of water almost up to his neck with a blue screen behind him, with about 30 people standing around...with this boat attached to his head and a big wood bracing strapped to his back to hold the boat up. Then they dumped water all over the top of him. He was standing there shaking and freezing. It was a lot of work. The airplane was funny too, because the airplane only seats two people. We got all three of us in there, plus the airplane pilot, trying to do this part. Ty was sitting on top of me and Jerry was like in this little hole. He could barely move. It looks like the plane is big and we're flying along. A lot of crazy stuff happened.

"It was dangerous too, but I don't think Sam would let us do anything that would kill us. There was one scene where Ty is sitting on this little stump, playing his guitar. I do it, and Jerry's sitting on there too. To the right of me, it was like a drop that was I don't know how many thousands of feet straight down. It was so scary that I crawled up it and Sam guided me up on to it. Ty did it first, and when Ty came down he said, 'Look guys, if you don't want to do this, just don't do it. No video is worth our lives.' We got up on the thing and we did it though. The funny thing was, when they showed the scene, you couldn't see how far the drop was on the other side...and that's the only reason I did it, because it's supposed to be so picturesque, ya know. Literally, it was a drop...shoot, we were almost up to the tree lines of the mountains, and this drop went all the way down to the city. It was like a canyon."

******Wow! So you were just like



Manager/Producer Sam Taylor directing the video shoot

sitting on the edge of this cliff?

"Yeah, hoping that a big wind didn't come along. I had a real hard time doing it...and then Sam jumps on top of it, hops on one leg, and screams. He's not scared of heights. We were furious at him. We were yelling at him, 'Get down! We need you!'"

****What future plans do you have for videos?**

"None. We're doing this Texas tour, then go to England and play for awhile and then come back to the U.S. Whenever it's time for a new video, we'll stop what we're doing and do it."

****What's happening radio-wise?**

"We've got about 170 stations playing the single. That's an awful lot for King's X. The record's selling. We've sold almost 100,000, and it's only been out for a few weeks...and it's still selling. Hopefully maybe with this one we can sell a few more records."

****How does it feel to have this measure of success that you now have?**

"I guess it doesn't feel any different, because nothing's really happened actually, within me. We're all the same people. We believe that something's happening with King's X when we see record sales. Radio can play it all day long, and MTV can play it 10 times a day, but if we don't sell records, it doesn't really mean anything. At this point, that's what we're gauging anything by. We've had radio airplay before and we've had MTV play us, and they made all the promises that they were going to do this and that...the record company made promises on both records, and the first two records haven't sold very much. This record's out and they're all saying the same

thing, except they're saying, 'This time, this one's gonna happen.' We just sit back and go, 'Okay, you do your thing and we'll see what happens.' We're tired of being let down."

"Besides that, as far as we're concerned, we're really on schedule. If the first record sold really, really good, I don't know...it just doesn't seem to work real good with new bands when they become big successes overnight. We don't want people to like us because it's the thing to do now. We want people to listen to our music because they get something out of it; because they understand, rather than we get one hit and all of a sudden all these people come to our shows who couldn't care about or know any more than this one song. That's commercial music to me. Hopefully we've got something more to give people, and it takes time. You've got to see the whole picture."

****Maybe you can burst some people's pre-conceived notions of how successful you are. How successful aren't you?**

"One thing is, is that I really don't know what success is; where to gauge it at, because from a Christian music standpoint, selling a 100,000 records in a couple of weeks is pretty amazing, but yet in the secular market 100,000 records is just a beginning. 'Okay, they've sold a few records. Now let's see if we can push this thing.' So, I think success is irrelevant, almost. We go to England and it's like we're really big over there. We come to America and no one's really heard of us. There's always a handful of people and stuff, but 100,000 people out of the record buying public in the United States--that's not very many. It's obvious that we're not that successful. I'm not getting any bigger of a pay check. I'm just barely making ends meet, as usual. I don't have to work, so I'm a little bit more successful in that now I know my rent will be paid every month. That's a little better."

Things keep getting better, but just because you've got a video on MTV doesn't mean nothing."

****That's hard for some people to believe.**

"It is. It's true. A lot of people think I'm rich. 'I'm a rich and famous rock star.' I'm not. I can walk down the sidewalk to my apartment and my neighbors don't even speak to me--and they get MTV and they listen to the radio! (laughs)"

****How was it a year ago? (when "Gretchen Goes To Nebraska" came out) Did you have trouble paying your rent?**

"Yeah."

****What did you do when that happened?**

"As I always do, I pray. The thing is, God always meets my needs, no matter what...to the point where I'm just used to it now. Even if everything just fell apart today, He would meet my needs. He always did, even when there was no money coming for three or four months. It came from somewhere--out of the sky almost, different sources or different things. I've never wanted for food and a place to live...maybe I couldn't buy cd's or put gas in my car, but the major bills: phone, utilities, and rent was taken care of, and I always have enough to help support my little brother and sister...and, it only works when I'm tithing too."

"I've always wanted a balance, so people don't feel like they're getting preached at."

If I'm tithing, no matter how much money I have or how little I have, as long as I'm tithing, miraculously everything always works out. When I stop tithing or forget about it, things get real crazy and I'm wondering, 'What's going on lord?' And then I remember, 'Oh, tithe!' And then the Lord will give me ten dollars or something and He'll say, 'Tithe.' I'll go, 'But that's all I've got!' He'll say, 'You want to be blessed, don't you?' I'll go, 'Here Ya go. Take it all. Here.' It always works."

****Tell us about this Wilde Silas group that King's X, Galactic Cowboys, and Love In Grey are all part of. What is it all about?**

"Wilde Silas is a music works company. It was a film-making company at first. That's what Sam started. He is Wilde Silas. We're all members of the Wilde Silas organization, and now we've got three bands as part of it so far. Basically it's a family of people who believe and believe in art and making art and being an expression of who we are in Christ. I think Sam would say that's okay."

****Why the similarity in sound be-**

tween all three bands?

"We all grew up together. We were the first band. They would come to see us in clubs. We all feed on the same kind of music. I think that one similarity that has been planned is all the vocals. All three bands have lots of vocals--that's something that Sam believes in. He believes that not everybody can play an instrument, but everybody thinks they can sing, and that's what people go to first--melody. He feels it is very, very important to have melody. He said something about God's creation of vocals. He says you can put instruments to something and play them all day long, but when you get a bunch of voices together singing together, it's a very spiritual experience. He believes that it's a gift that God gave us to do with our vocal chords. When you sing together and do these things, it takes on a whole new thing. You can tune an instrument and make all kinds of noise, but there's something about vocals. That's what people tune to, even if they don't admit it or know it. That's a big philosophy with the Wilde Silas group.

"It seems like it's becoming a trend, because lots of bands are doing lots of vocals, which is great. Other than vocals, the other similarity is probably the heavy low end in the bands. It's just because we all like that. It's kind of like the Sound Garden thing up in Seattle. A lot of people tell them, 'All your bands sound the same.' They say, 'We're a small community of people, and we all listen to the same kind of music.' We all do too.

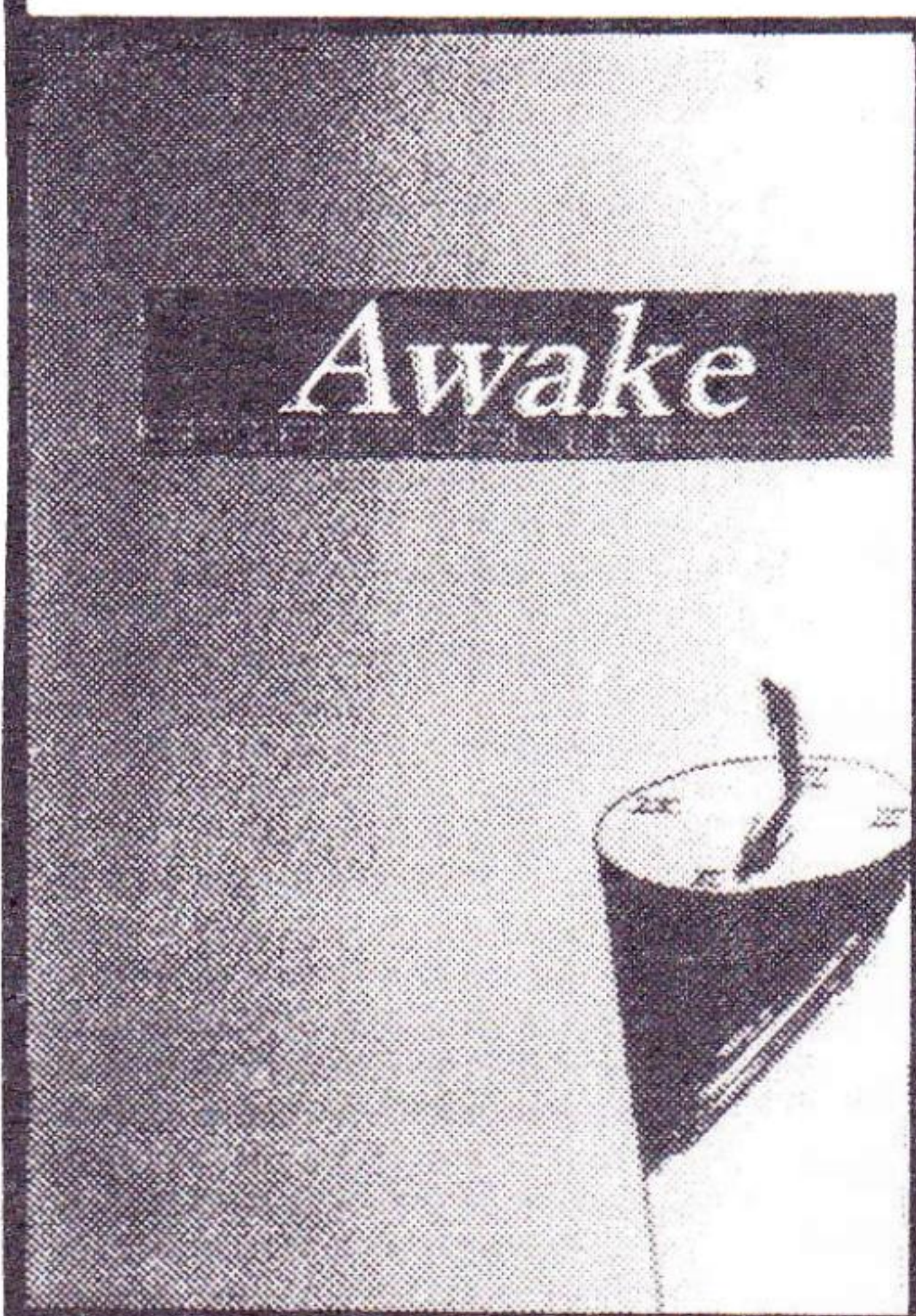
Especially me, Allen, and Monty. We just love the same bands, and we play each other's demos for each other, and we learn from each other. I hear King's X in Galactic Cowboys, but I hear Galactic Cowboys in the last few songs I've written too. We all went for that speed metal thing at once. When I wrote 'Visions,' The Awful Truth were practicing next door and learning how to play fast at the same time, because we had just got turned on to Metallica. We just got to do it first, but we still consider ourselves the big brother to all of them, and they all feel the same way. So, when you're in a family together, there's going to be similarities. We were both kind of born from the same parent, who is Sam."

Well, there you have it--frankness, honesty, and quotes from King's X. Tune in next time, when maybe (hopefully) they'll be as big as U2. HM



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OUT AND ABOUT WITH VENGEANCE RISING

By Doug Van Pelt

Vengeance Rising stopped to play in Austin, Texas at the end of its latest nationwide tour, where Heaven's Metal had a chance to catch up with one of metal's fastest bands.

****How has this tour been?**

"It's been a blessing," says vocalist, spokesman, pastor, skater, and friend--Roger Martinez. "We've been able to talk to just hundreds and hundreds of people. There are obviously good points and bad points. The good points were the ministry, and one of the bad points is that we were originally supposed to have done between 50 and 60 shows in this period of time, and now we've done only 23."

The band also had the misfortune of buying a trailer that was assembled wrong, which blew eight different tires on the road--costing the band about \$2,000 in temporary repairs. It broke down somewhere near Alabama, where the band members decided to rent a car to travel unhindered to Austin, while Drew Fischer and the rest of the roadies drove the bogus trailer the rest of the way...well, almost. The trailer sits somewhere in Beaumont, Texas, waiting for a long-lasting repair job. Vengeance played that night on the opening band's (Angelix) equipment.

****Have you got tunes for the new album worked up?**

"Yeah, we've got a ton of tunes, and we're actually gonna have to eliminate some. Each of us have a bunch of tunes. We'll probably hit the studio in January or February. We're going to do the two we played tonight, 'The Contract,' and 'Wailing.' There's a lot of heavy topics that we're going to hit. It's going to be rippin'."

"We'll deal with the whole issue of the number seven, and judgment, like on a song called 'You Will Bow.' It deals with those who think they can simply be able to mock Christ until the day they die, or be in blatant disregard for God's words. You hear all of these bands slamming Christianity, or slamming God, or slamming what they perceive to be Christianity; when, in fact, it's actually a completely warped perspective. The song basically addresses their chosen ignorance. The facts are so readily available to them, and they choose to listen to media exploitation of what they perceived to be Christianity. Why are they doing that? Record sales? We don't know. So, we're addressing that type of apathy, and saying, 'Hey, you're not going to be able to get away with this the whole time. You have an option: bow now, or you will bow!' Anyway, we'll be dealing with realizations like that, which we hope will be thought-provoking to the degree that it'll be life-changing."

****Your full-page ad in Thrasher is really cool. Wouldn't it be wild if you had this picture of you skating in there? Wouldn't that**

be like a skater's dream come true?

"I do believe that it's supposed to be in there. A long time ago, I was just at the point of going out for (skate) teams and I got hit by a car. It was gnarly. I was in bed for a long time. The doctors freaked that my legs were not broken, because the guy was going like 40 m.p.h. when he nailed me. I was on my board and he was drunk. The light was yellow turning red, and he sped up to go through it. By the time he sped up, the light was already red. I saw green, and I went for it and he just nailed me. Otherwise, I'm sure I would've gone for being on a team. I still can skate a little bit, you know, but nothing near to what I was into. I can still skate and catch some air. I rarely get to skate these days, though, so riding that ramp at Cornerstone was great."

"We hope that you'll really see what we're doing and use it as a tool to win people to Jesus Christ."

****Larry, when did you start playing a Strat?**

"You wanna hear 'Larry's Stratocaster Story?' Well, I've always kind of wanted a Strat, but I never got one because of the 21 frets. It's like the scales and some of the things you do, you can't use that last fret. That's why I've always played Les Pauls. I've always wanted to get a white Strat 22-fret Rosewood neck. When we were in Virginia, this guy said, 'Come on downstairs and I'll show ya one.' I thought, 'I ain't goin' down there. The last thing in the world I need is to go down there and see something I can't have.' We go down there and it's high enough on the wall to where I can't reach it. I thought, 'Alright, we can't get to it!' Then he takes it down and plugs it in and goes, 'Let's check it out.' I'm like, 'Oh man...' I start playing it. It's the new style of Strat that are out too, so it's got a whole new different system: bar, locking system, everything. A whole new pickup design. The whole thing's like re-done, ya know."

"I'm thinking in my mind, 'I'll give the guy 500 bucks,' because I knew that was ridiculous as all could be. That way I'd feel better when he said, 'Well, I couldn't do that,'

and think, 'Okay, well I won't worry about it.' Then I just asked him, 'How much does it go for?' He said, 'The guitar's \$1,000.' I'm like, 'Huhh!' That's no case, no nothing! We were only there for the day, and then we were in Florida for about four or five days. He said, 'I'll give ya a better deal than anyone in L.A. would ever think of giving ya. I'll give ya case, strap, set of strap locks, chord, a brand new set of strings, and ship it out to ya in Florida for 600 bucks.'

"I was like, 'aahh, aah,' and I had to get it. The reason why I've always wanted a Strat was for that single coil type sound--for that bluesy stuff. A lot of times we'll do that in practice, is just sit down and jam with the blues. It just worked out. He goes, 'If you like the guitar and you've always wanted one, you should have it. I'm willing to work with you; payments, whatever.' I'm thinking, 'This guy's in Virginia, and he's willing to take payments!?!' I was like, 'Wow!' He's really worked with us really well. Roger got a violin, and Roger Martin ended up getting some Sonic Maximizer for his bass rig."

****You got a violin, Roger? I didn't know you played.**

"Yeah, it's a killer violin dude! It's a Barkus-Berry electric 5-string, so I can get the Cello scale on it. It's beautiful! I play a lot of different instruments, actually. I write a lot of the material, like instrumental fusion stuff. In the years to come I'm sure I'll be doing some of that, too. Musically, I'm really into that."

****Larry, you were playing direct to your amps tonight, weren't you?**

"Yeah," answers Larry, "I always do, even with my rig. The only effect I use is the wah pedal for leads, and the distortion that's on the pre-amp, the Marshall--that's it. I don't run any kind of echo, reverbs, delays, nothing. That way I have less problems. It's not that I don't like effects, they're great. It's something that you need to work with too. If you listen to Pink Floyd or something like that, he uses a lot of stuff on his guitar, and you can hear what he's playing, though. A lot of people put too much depth on their effect. When they use it, the guy sounds like he's jamming, and all he's doing is (demonstrates strumming one chord, and laughs). So I never got into that too much. I've always just run direct. All the guys I was really into when I learned how to play guitar, Michael Schenker, that's all they ever did--plug a Gibson into a Marshall and just go."

"Now, from both records...my guitar playing is getting boring to me. Something has to change, because I don't want to sound the same on every dog-gone song, playing the same riffs and same runs on the neck. The good thing about me getting a Strat, is now I'm going to start getting a little different feel. I'll start listening to some different players, because I'll



Larry obviously proud of his new Strat (Photo by Jeff Lott)

start listening to that sound, and they'll play differently; and it's going to start influencing me differently, so my style will start to change a little bit, which will be good. Hopefully, by my next record, it'll be different. I love the sound of the thing too. I'm glad I bought it. At 600 bucks, you can't beat it. It won't go down in value, as long as I take good care of it."

****Now you can match Uli Roth now.**

(Larry stares in disbelief) Dude! You got it! When I got the thing, I thought, 'The first thing I need to do is get a bunch of old Scorpions tapes.' ...Not to rip off riffs, but to listen to his technique of how he used the (vibrato) bar with his riffs. A lot of stuff nowadays...there's all these guitarists going in too many directions, and I like the older style guitar players anyway, and he was just incredible on it. That's exactly what I was thinking. I need to get used to the bar. I need to kind of get used to the tuning. (Roth) He really knew how to use the thing.

"Some of Eddie Van Halen's earlier stuff...he knew the bar really well, too. He knew, at points on the bar when he was going down, where certain notes were at. He could stop it and he'd be at low-C or something. That's what's gonna take me the longest--really understanding that. It's all gonna be me listening to the bar and getting used to the action, so when I go down so far it's smooth. That's gonna take time, but I'm really gonna enjoy it. I'm gonna bring that '59 Sunburst and my Stratocaster and have some serious jams at rehearsal."

When asked for any final words, Roger threatened to talk all night, and then en-

couraged anyone who might want to help coordinate the band's '91 tour follow-up ministry and discipleship to write him at: 8033 Sunset Blvd. #441, Hollywood CA 90046. He also encourages anyone who's been blessed in any way by the band's tapes, the Bible studies, or his teaching tapes to "send your testimony, written out legibly, with your name and phone number, and your pastor's name and phone number on it. Those things are a major blessing to us. It helps other people to really get to know what's going on with the ministry as well.

"We hope that you'll really make it a major point in your life to really see what we're doing and use it as a tool to win people to Jesus Christ. I hope that those of you who have not had discipleship will coordinate with your church and...for you young men, that you'll find a good man in your life who can spend time with you weekly, and systematically teach you specifically what the doctrines of salvation are all about. That's the bedrock from which you're really going to be able to fly in ministry. It's the catalyst, and it's really going to send you hurling forth in ministry. You know, it's a springboard from which you can really take off." HM

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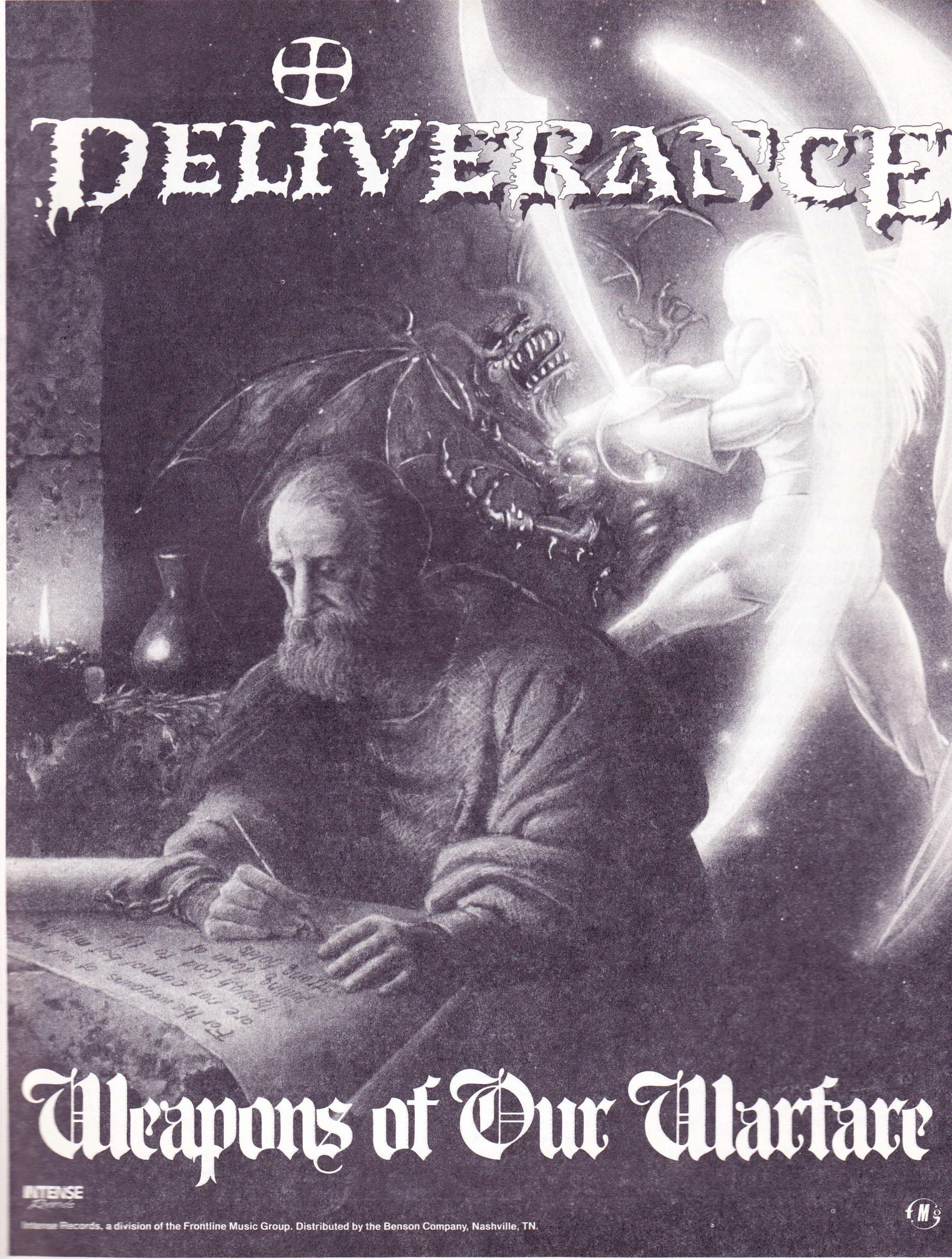
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GETTING EXTREME

By Dong Van Pelt

A&M recording artists Extreme blew into Austin, Texas recently, much to the delight of a packed club called The Back Room. Afterwards Heaven's Metal had the chance to talk with vocalist Gary Cherone. Listen in on the conversation:

****What are you trying to say with "Pornograffitti?"**

"It's a conceptual album...it does have a story line. We don't throw the word "concept" in the audience's face, like 'The Wall' or 'Operation Mindcrime.' I think that scares people. It's easier to swallow a song rather than a whole record. We want people to like the songs, and we want them to stand on their own. If they want to read between the lines and get involved in the lyrics, there is a story line.

"It's based around this kid named Francis--his trials and tribulations, and what he goes through in life. He's not a crazy kid, he's just a normal kid that's been subjected to his time. He's just like you or me. We all have our good and bad. 'Pornograffitti' is another name for the Decadence Dance,' or the world. As far as what we're trying to say, it's a trip through the world seen through a kid who's been tainted by life and how he gets through it. We could've gone into other subjects, but we dealt with the sexual situation that he had to go through and how he deals with it."

****What are your views on pornography?**

"I'm a red-blooded, American heterosexual male who loves the female body. I look at Playboy just as much as anyone else. As far as pornography, too much of anything is going to take its toll. I'm not a 'right-wing rock star,' as Woody Allen might say, but I'm concerned with society's lines that keep on getting crossed. Maybe we've opened one too many Pandora's Boxes. You really can't turn back the time-table. Maybe we are headed for a fall. That's what Decadence Dance' is about. It's about how the world is cold and people step on each other to get to the top and don't care for their brothers. They're looking out for number one, and stuff like that. Pornography is just a perfect example of it. It's just a big money-making machine. I guess if you can keep it behind the counters in brown paper bags...let 'em sell it. How do you feel?"

****How do I feel?** I guess I would agree with some feminists and stuff--that it can exploit women. I grew up reading Playboy and Penthouse too. The statistics show that a lot of sex crimes and pornography are related. I don't think reading a Playboy is going to make you commit a crime, but I think it feeds lust...

"To me, pornography certainly isn't magazines. The song deals with what surrounds us, from selling toothpaste, to the



billboard, to the magazine stand you walk by to go to work. That is 'Pornograffitti'--everything that surrounds us. How can I, or how can this young kid go through life without being tainted by it, and being scarred by pornograffitti that surrounds him? What he eventually turns into is a he-man woman-hater. He suppresses all the 'Suzies' and all the temptations. He ends up pushing away women and losing out on love, and hating, because of the sexual temptation."

****Is that the end of the story? Is there resolution?**

"On the first side, he trips through life. Decadence Dance' is his introduction into the world. 'Little Jack Horny' is his every normal boy's promiscuity growing up. He knocks up his chick. 'President' is just his ambition. You can relate that to you wanting to be a whatever journalist, or me being a rocker. This guy has his ambition--and that's even tainted. 'Why do you wanna be that? Is it to help people, or is it for power?"

"Get The Funk Out' is, I think, everyone's first reaction when someone doesn't like you...you pretty much go 'f*** you!' That's my first thing. You're defending yourself. When you have time to think, you wouldn't do that. 'More Than Words' is looking for love, rather than just hearing it. He doesn't want to hear the words, he wants it. 'Money' is obviously some of the values that kids get installed with that are contradictory. In the beginning of the song, the mother puts the kid to bed and says, 'Don't forget to say your

prayers,' and in the same breath she says, 'Don't forget to put the tooth under your pillow.' Those are light things, but those are contradicting values that parents install. These things warp their sense of priority.

"It's A Monster' obviously is when he grows up. He realizes that he's made his mistakes and now he has to live with it. He has to deal with all the problems he's created, the fruit that he's sown. It's in his face now. He's got a pregnant girlfriend...his values are f***ed. That's where he turns around.

"The second half of the story starts with 'Pornograffitti.' It's like Decadence Dance' part two. It's the same song, but now he sees the world through different eyes. He ends up withdrawing. This kid ends up not wanting to be a part of this world, so he withdraws to a different time. That's why we go into 'When I First Kissed You.' The music's different, because it's supposed to set you back. That's when a kiss was a kiss, what your mother or father used to say...you know, you didn't screw on the first date. He withdraws back to that time and wishes he was there, but obviously it's a dream. He wakes up to his own reality and his own world, and his own love, and that's 'Suzie's All Day Sucker.' That's blatant temptation and everything in the book. How he deals with it this time is he becomes a female woman hater, because he can't suppress his sexual temptation. That's almost the end of the story. 'Song For Love' comes next. This is the end of the story. The first verse starts off very sad: "He lies awake with open eyes/his love just died/he's cold inside." He wakes up,

EXTREME | to r: Gary Cherone, Pat Badger, Paul Geary, and Nuno Bettencourt

and he's feeling sorry for himself. He looks at the concept of love, and that's the light at the end of the tunnel. He doesn't know if it exists, but he has to believe in it. I think we all have to believe in it. After I do my thing, after you do your thing, after the masks are all off...everybody wants to be loved. It's not the traditional 'I love you/You love me.' It's more a song about love. It ends in a vocal crescendo. 'A song for you/a song for me/a song for love.' End of story....but it doesn't end. He doesn't die. It's to be continued.

"As far as 'Hole-Hearted,' the production's very minimal. It was done on 8-track. We could've done it bigger, but I want it to be separate from the album, kind of like an editorial. It's like Nuno (Bettencourt, the

"PORNOGRAFFITI deals with the morality of the last ten years of my life."

guitarist) is playing the 12-string on a porch. It has that kind of feel. It kind of talks about the whole record. How his life's ambition has occupied his time, that kind of stuff. He still hasn't found the peace in his heart to make him happy, but he's still looking for it. It could be a girl, it could be God. I don't want to tell you what it is, because I want people to put their own peace there. That's why we keep it general. To me, I'm looking for God. That's my own. You can put that if you want to. If you don't, I hope you got it."

****Why'd you put a song like "Watching, Waiting" on the first album?**

"'Watching, Waiting' and 'Flesh And Blood'...there was this big contradiction between those two songs. I was asked about that all tour last year. All I can say is, 'I'm human.' It was tough to put those two contradicting terms on the album. You hit it on the head. That was one of the reasons why I felt we had to do a conceptual record--to justify some of the contradictions on the first record. There are contradictions on the second record...that's what life's all about--the constant fight, and the morality of it all. 'Watching, Waiting' is probably one of the most powerful stories in history. Whether you believe that the Man was God or that He wasn't, the story of the crucifixion is so compelling that we wanted to tell it like a historian and kind of hide it. We do hide it...there's a couple of lines that hint to it. I'm sure there's people who just like the song, and they go, 'I'm staring at the Son...' and they look at the lyrics and go, 'That's not how you spell sun.' It's a way to drag people into the story. We got some 'Stryper flak' for it, but hey, that's a part of life. I believe in the story. If it can bring some people into the story, they're gonna have to have that battle, like I did."

****When was the battle for you? How did that happen?**

"To tell you the truth, I was brought up a Catholic. I consider myself a Christian. My mother's a Catholic. She's a good Catholic.

She's an inspiration to me. She's kinda bummed out that I'm not a Catholic, but she's a Christian too. I was brought up as a Catholic, and I never really doubted the story. I'm glad I always felt like I believed in Him. I never doubted it. The people who confronted opposite opinions, I never had a doubt in my mind, and I still don't. This record, 'Pornografitti,' deals with the morality of the last ten years of my life. Obviously, we hide it in a character named Francis. The names were changed to protect the innocent. Some of the stories are warped and were exaggerated, but it's basically some of the things I had to go through. 'Hole-Hearted' kind of sums it up for me right now. That's gonna lead off where the next record goes...hopefully. Unless I get screwed up on the way (laughs)."

****Who is Jesus Christ to you?**

"I would never deny Him three times or once. He's the Son of God to me, period. I can go on, but I feel like I'm doing a sermon. I don't wanna do a sermon. What is He to you?"

****He is the Son of God. He's God in the flesh, and He's fully human...and He's my Lord.**

"Is he? I could tell. I could see it in your faces (smiling and glancing at former Stryker drummer Joey Knight and I). Did you catch this in the new record?"

****No, I haven't heard it.**

"You've gotta hear the new record. It kind of answers a lot of questions for me. Hopefully, if you can relate to it...it's just pornografitti. It's dealing with the whole morality of it...my whole lifestyle. 'When I'm President' is like hidden as far as this little kid's ambition to be president. Is it to help people, or is it to glorify God? To do right? Or is it self-indulgent, selfish ambition, to have power? It talks about how power corrupts...how such a high office corrupts. Sometimes when you're in that position you have to go with the flow or get kicked out. I relate that to what I'm doing, as far as a rock and roller. It's such a tough life. I do believe that, through Christ, you can do it. I certainly can't do it alone, but it's a tough life. The temptations are incredible. Often I've wanted to get out. It's impossible, but then it's impossible without Him. I feel that God's given me a gift, a little bit of a gift to sing. I feel I can sing and I am on my way to glorifying Him. I certainly don't, as far as the whole secular music thing and the whole Christian music thing...you know, a lot of people go, 'Hey, why are you in this? You should be singing Christian music?' I look at it as, again, Christ ate with the sinners, with the beggars and the tax-collectors. The people who are saved, they don't need saving. It's the people who are here. I think Extreme is a positive band. It deals with the issues. If I can go in that direction and keep on going, I'll be doing alright. As far as the music, Nuno handles the music and the funk end to it. I'm glad I'm a part of that, because this is the music

that moves me."

****A friend of mine up in Washington told me about you guys. He said that you guys were Christians and you just didn't grow up with Petra...you grew up with Aerosmith. So, I bought the album and read the lyrics to "Watching, Waiting" and was kind of excited. Obviously, some of the contradictions bothered me on the first record. For me, it's a personal conviction, as far as like swearing or whatever...To me, I can't see myself doing that. I don't want to do that. It's easy to be judgmental to somebody who swears, but I don't want to do that, because it's not clearly written out in scripture...**

"As far as swearing?"

****Like the "f-word," or whatever.**

"No, I think it spells it out. 'What your mouth says is where your heart is,' and swearing, obviously...any type of slang, the Lord's name in vain, anything...if it's a violent thing coming out of your mouth, it's in your heart. That reveals what's in your heart. I think it spells it out. Though, it's great that you're not quick to judge, because as soon as you judge, you'll catch yourself with a bigger log."

Gary went on to tell how Chuck Swindoll "saved" his life. "I was swearing, working at a car rental place, and, at five o'clock at night...it's dark, it's winter, I'm swearing, miserable, and I wanted to get home. Nothing's on the am radio station, and Chuck was screaming at me! He just destroyed me. It

"I feel I am on my way to glorifying Him."

was kind of like in '85 when God spoke through Chuck to me. I love Christian radio, as far as some of the speakers go: Chuck Smith, Charles Stanley...these guys are fabulous, but Chuck Swindoll is my favorite. I listened to him last night in Austin. I got the book and found all the stations. I'm glad you like Chuck.

"Pray for me and I'll pray for you. I want you to listen to this record, because there's a lot of blood spilt on this record (mine). I'm on my way. I just know I'm on my way. The end of the record obviously leans in that direction, and I think...I know, I hope, that God will speak through the last couple of songs maybe to tag some people and let the Holy Spirit tug at their own souls. The Holy Spirit's been tugging at mine, and I've been fighting it. I've been starting to accept it, because you can't fight it. It's horrible. It really is."

****How do the rest of the guys in the band feel? What are their views on the Lord?**

"I feel personally there's pressure on me. I'm not a spiritual leader, but as far as the band they would turn to me. They're always

kidding me, since 'Watching, Waiting.' It's the first time I introduced something that dealt with God or whatever.

The rest of the band knows there is a God. Everyone knows there's a God, but like every other human being, we kind of turn away from Him when we decide to do our own thing. But then again, most of us wake up alone and have to deal with God on our own. I have a conscious, and I'm naked in front of my Lord every minute of the day--even when I'm doing wrong, I know he's there. I do ignore him and do turn away, but I always end up on my knees. The devil would want you to believe, 'How could you ever turn away? God will never forgive you for this.' I know He will. He does, and that's what keeps me going, because I sin everyday. Minor/major, it doesn't matter--He sees 'em."

**So you were basically in Extreme when the Lord touched your life with Chuck Swindoll?

"Yeah, somewhere in '85 I felt that pulling, and I fought it, because there's always still that human instinct to fight it...but now it's gaining more and more, and I'm starting to give in. I'm feeling that He's using me now. It's the greatest feeling in the world."

**What is your goal with your music? You know, are you a ministry per-se, and if not, why not?

"That's a good question. Well, obviously, our music from a Christian standpoint would be considered secular. From a Christian standpoint, that doesn't mean that it's not Christian music, or that you're not a Christian if you don't sing Christian music. I look at it this way, and I'm not trying to skirt the issue: First, it's a trade. People on Wall Street, they do their job and their job on the computer is not necessarily Christian. It's not necessarily evil, but they do their job. Then at lunch they don't necessarily start winning souls. They live a life. You wouldn't go up to a person on Wall Street and go, 'Why aren't you doing Christian work?' It's a job, and a lot of

people do that job. As far as a musician, we play music.

"As far as what Christian music is, there's a glorification... Some music is to glorify God--and that's great. That's Christian music. There's some music that deals with society: the bad stuff that goes on--that answers problems. There's some great, constructive positive rap music out there that's positive. It's great and it's getting these kids off of drugs. To me, that's as Christian as anything: You've got these black role models telling kids, 'Gangs ain't the way, drugs ain't the way, get a job.' To me, this is all positive stuff. That's not blatant glorifying God, but yes it is--there's morality in it.

"As far as Extreme, I do think that we have a conscious on this record. There is a morality on this record that this character deals with as best he can at this time. At the end it's very positive, and there's an uplifting thing. There is some nasty things on this record, and that's the truth. As long as you're telling the truth, then you're on your way. There's people that can relate to that truth. This is a human being who at times is very ugly. I don't make any excuses for 'Flesh and Blood.' To me, that's as lustful as lustful can get...but I'm telling the truth. It would be wrong for me to just tell one side, and just be happy and all this, because that's not life. There are Christians who fall by the wayside and try to get back on their feet.

"There's a lot of blood, sweat, and tears, and a lot of my nakedness on this record. I'm up for shots in the face because of it. I defend it, as far as it speaks for itself. The next record will be considered secular on the Christian thing, but I think it will be very Christian. I don't think people will be quick to judge the next record. The people who are quick to judge the record because of the title 'Pornograffiti'--those are the blind people. There's a lot of record stores who won't put this record in their store because of the name. To me, it's crazy. If you read the song, it's as anti-porno as a porno song can get, and that's what it's about. I wanna stay in the gutter, as far as the kids. To me, they're not in the gutter. These are the kids we're trying to

reach. They'll be some fans that do drugs at our shows, but they're not gonna get the message, because they're not straight. I don't want druggies at my shows. I want people to listen. That's my main objective. I think it's gonna be very positive, and I'm on my way. Lord willing, I'm on my way to this.

"I'm finding that the more and more the Spirit tugs on me, the harder it is to deal in this world. It's just going in the opposite direction. The more and more I get rooted, the more and more I'm not part of this, ya know."

After the interview, Gary, Joey, and I chatted about end-times prophecy and then prayed together. It was a really cool time of fellowship. Gary is a real nice brother. Please pray for him, and if you get a chance to talk to him, encourage him in the Lord. That's what we all need. Gary's on his way...to the same place we're going, and that's maturity and intimacy with our Lord. Until we get there, we need lots of prayer and encouragement.

As far as the band Extreme is concerned, form your own opinion. They're not a Bloodgood or a Vengeance, but maybe that's okay. Ask God about it. HM

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- #21 RAGE OF ANGELS, Accountability article, Mastodon, Stryper, BC, Watchmen...
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- #23 VENGEANCE, X-Sinner, Deliverance, Archon, Tempest...
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- #25 WHITECROSS, One Bad Pig, Jet Circus, King's X, Sacred Warrior...
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- #27 DELIVERANCE, Guardian, BC, Holy Soldier, David Zaffiro, Seventh Seal...

FORTRESS.

ROCK A

A MIGHTY MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW WARD.

"TURN YOUR EAR TO ME: COME

MUSIC OR MISSIONS?

By Keith Green



Today, so many people ask me if I can't tell them how they can start or enter into a music ministry. At concerts I get countless questions about this, and I get lots of letters and even some long-distance phone calls from so many people who feel they are just "called" into the music ministry. One day, I began to ask myself why so few have ever asked me how to become a missionary, or even a local street preacher, or how to disciple a new believer. Everyone, it seems, would prefer the "bright

lights" of what they think a music ministry would be, rather than the mud and obscurity of the mission field or the streets of the ghetto, or even the true spiritual sweetness of just being a nobody whom the Lord uses mightily.

My answer to their question is almost always the same. "Are you willing to never play music again? Are you willing to be a nothing? Are you willing to go anywhere, and do anything for Christ? Are you willing to stay right where you are and let the Lord do great

things through you, though nobody seems to care or notice at all?" They all seem to always answer each of these questions with a quick "yes!" But I really doubt if they know what their answer entails.

My dearest family in Jesus...Why are we so star struck? Why do we idolize Christian singers and speakers? We go from glorifying musicians in the world, to glorifying Christian musicians. It's all idolatry! Can't you see that? It's true that there are many men and women of God who are so anointed to call down the Spirit of God on His people and on the unsaved. But Satan is getting a great victory as we seem to worship these ministers on tapes and records, and clamor to get their autographs in churches and concert halls from coast to coast.

Can't you see that you are hurting these ministers? They try desperately to tell you that they don't deserve to be praised, and because of this you squeal with delight and praise them all the more. You're smothering them, making it almost impossible for them to see that it's really Jesus. They keep telling themselves that, but you keep telling them that it's really them, crushing their humility and grieving the Spirit that is trying to keep their eyes on Jesus.

So of course, what we idolize, we ourselves desire to become, sometimes with our whole heart. So a lot of people want to be just like their favorite gospel singer and performer, and they seek after it with the same fervor that the Lord demands we seek after Him! And again, we insult the Spirit of grace and try to make a place for ourselves, rather than a place for Jesus.

How come no one idolizes or praises the missionaries who give up everything and live in poverty, endangering their lives and their families with every possible danger that the American dream has almost completely eliminated? How come no one lifts up and

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exalts the ghetto and prison ministers and preachers who never can take up an offering, for if they did they would either laugh (or cry) for what they'd receive? How come? Because (1) we're taught from very early that comfort is our goal and security...and (2) that we should always seek for a lot of people to like us. Who lives more comfortably and has more "fans" than the latest bright and shining gospel star? Who has lived less comfortably and has had less friends and supporters than the selfless people who have died untimely, premature deaths trying to conquer souls and whole nations for the whole glory of God as missionaries and soul winners?

Do you really believe we're living in the very last times? Then why do you spend more money on gospel records and concerts than you give to organizations that feed the poor, or to the missionaries your church is supporting?

There are ministries all over the world where people who have nothing to "tithes" on are being saved and transformed. Broken people with nothing to hold them back except not having anyone to hold their hand during the times when it all looks completely hopeless.

I repent of ever having recorded one single song, and ever having played even one concert, if my music and (more importantly) my life has not provoked you in godly jealousy (Romans 11:11) to sell out completely to Jesus!

Quit trying to make gods out of music ministers, and quit desiring to become like those gods. The Lord commands you, "Deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23) My piano is not my cross, it is my tool. I'd never play the thing again if God would show me a more effective tool for proclaiming His Gospel.

To finish, let me say that the only music ministers to whom the Lord will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," are the ones whose lives prove what their lyrics are saying, and the ones to whom music is the least important part of their life-glorifying the only worthy One has to be the most important!

Let's all repent of idolatry, and seeking a comfortable, rewarding life while we are passing through like strangers and pilgrims in this world. (Hebrews 11:13) For our reward is in heaven...and our due service to the Lord is "not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake." (Phil. 1:29)

Amen...Let us die graciously together and endure to the end like brave soldiers who give their lives, without a thought, for our noble and glorious King of Light. HM

Keith Green, who went to be with the Lord in 1982, wrote this article in 1979, when he was one of the most popular contemporary Christian artists performing.

This article was reprinted from The Last Days Magazine. If you would like additional copies of it, please write to Last Days Ministries at the above address and ask for LD#02. If you would like a gift subscription to The Last Days Magazine, please send your request to the same address.

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METAL TRACKS

As you may have heard by now, Frontline rap artist **D-Boy Rodriguez** was fatally shot outside his Dallas, Texas apartment. D-Boy will be missed by his family and fans (until we are united with him), and the many young people he helped out through the Street Church Academy that both he and his mother, Cookie Rodriguez (known as the "Mother Theresa" of Dallas gangland), worked at. Donations for D-Boy and The Street Church Academy can be sent to: 5215 Lawn View, Dallas TX 75227.

The **Moshketeers**, who used to be known as **Rapture**, played a gig with Testament and Megadeth on November 13th in Window Rock, Arizona.

Zion has disbanded...right as they were beginning to work on their follow-up album to "Thunder From The Mountain." Both David Moore and Tom Bozung got married in the last year to Seattle women, who wanted to move back to Seattle, and Marlin Saner is soon getting married to a girl from Missouri. "The new marriages put a strain on the band," explains vocalist Rex Scott. "It wasn't a real new thing for Zion, either. David Moore quit the band last April and then rejoined later... It could've been a real bitter thing, but it wasn't, so I'm thankful for that. I'm learning what God uses to make things happen." Rex has some very big plans up his sleeve, but we can't reveal them just yet, so stay tuned...

King's X played a showcase gig in New York City as part of the CMJ Convention. Their video, "It's Love," has been getting some good airplay on MTV. (If you would like to vote for the video to get more playtime, dial 1-800-DIALMTV between 2-3 pm Central Time.) The King's X official fan club address is: PO Box 968, Katy TX 77492-0968. The band did a small tour through Texas rock clubs with fellow believers **The Galactic Cowboys**, who are signed to Geffen Records.

Speaking of requesting videos on MTV, **Tourniquet** has just finished a video for the song "Ark Of Suffering," which features of a minute and a half of hardcore animal abuse footage. The band will probably get written up in a lot more animal-rights magazines and newsletters as a result. To help get the band airplay, you can call MTV's 24-hour request line. It's 1-900-786-0688 and costs 50 cents per call. It'll be exciting to see if the video gets a lot of airplay. In other band news, **Tourniquet** has added two new players to finish the lineup. Victor Macias is the bassist, and Eric Mendez is the guitarist. Both of these guys will join Guy, Ted, and Gary on the road and in the studio as **Tourniquet**.

Two former members of **Crossforce** and **Golgotha** are in a new Bay Area rock band called **The Chosen**. They were on the bill at an all Christian day at a nearby Great America Amusement Park. They were the only unsigned band there.

Petra donated one of Bob Hartman's Zion guitars to the Hard Rock Cafe in Orlando, Florida. The guitar will later be exhibited at the Paris, France Hard Rock Cafe.

According to Orlando Hard Rock manager, Colston Burgher, "It represents an American style of music that has been too long overlooked."

Charizma returned from a tour in Estonia, where they played 11 gigs in 11 days with over 3,000 at each show! The song "Join Hands" has hit the number one spot on Estonia Radio two times in a row. The band's Soviet Union-released tape features songs from the band's commemorative "Join Hands" EP and some remixed tunes from its "Rock The World" album. It can be purchased for \$10 (U.S. dollars) from: Daniel Nordstrom, Pl. 6511 Ersmark, S-902 66 Umea, Sweden.

King's Ransom, reviewed in the last issue, had its address mis-printed. The correct one is: 59 Bridlewood Dr, Welland, Ontario, CANADA L3C-6J7. The demo is available for \$5 (plus \$2 postage--all in U.S. funds). Also, the band just acquired a new bassist--Alan Craig.

Bride plans on taking tunes from its previous three demos and making one 10-song cassette. The band also has a new address: 295 Churchview Rd, West Point KY 40177.

Bloodgood's Kevin Whisler is a new parent, his wife gave birth to Marshall Robert recently. The band plans on playing several German dates in December. They have already done one out-of-state "Rock Theater" performance in Indiana.

Sparrow recorded live acoustic concerts by **Margaret Becker** and **Charlie Peacock** last summer in Dallas that were both fantastic! The video packages are called **Front Row**, and are modeled after the MTV Unplugged program. It would be cool to get some metal bands to do the same thing, maybe **Whitecross** or **REZ**...

And speaking of stripped-down performances, **One Bad Pig's** Paul Q-Pek recently performed a solo electric set in both the San Francisco area and Austin, Texas. Included in the set was a real cool rendition of "Red River" from the band's "Swine Flew" album. Cool stuff.

The L.A. band **Forever** is now called **Love Life**. Sanctuary has a concert hotline set up to keep Southern Californians caught up on the latest live dates. It's (213) 379-7805 Ext. 13#.

In an amazing move, Geffen Records has signed an exclusive distribution deal with Reunion for the mainstream market. The huge MCA-owned label will also pick up a substantial number of the Reunion back catalog, which may include the smokin' "Into Thy Hands" disc by **The Awakening**. It will be curious to see if Geffen markets this to the rarely-visited Gospel or Contemporary Christian sections of mainstream record stores; or if the company will push these acts as normal artists...

Xalt returned from its "metal missionary" tour of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Ecuador. After the success of **Whitecross's** tour over there, promoters invited Xalt to perform seven concerts in one week. Xalt headlined to over 15,000 people in El Salvador

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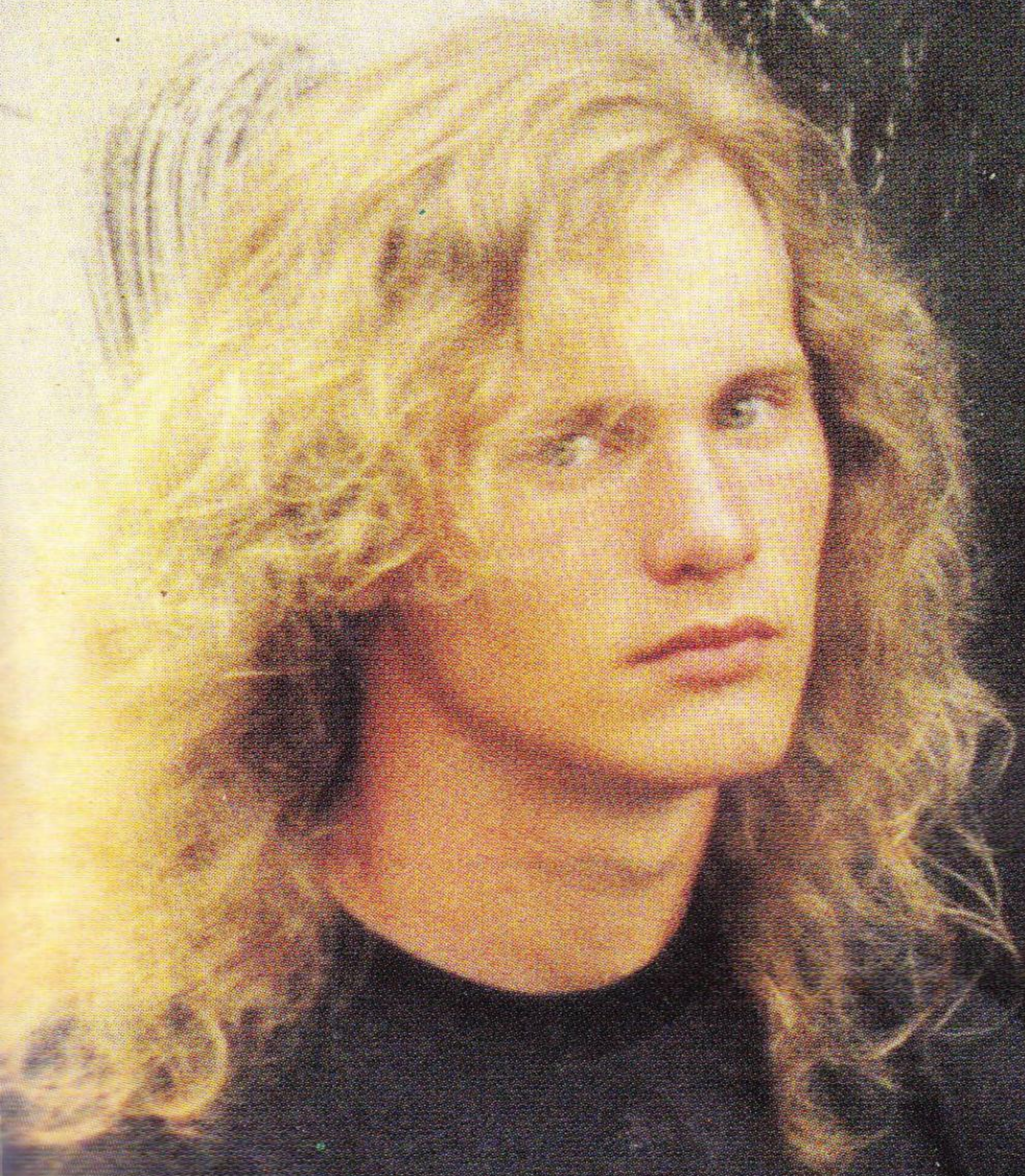
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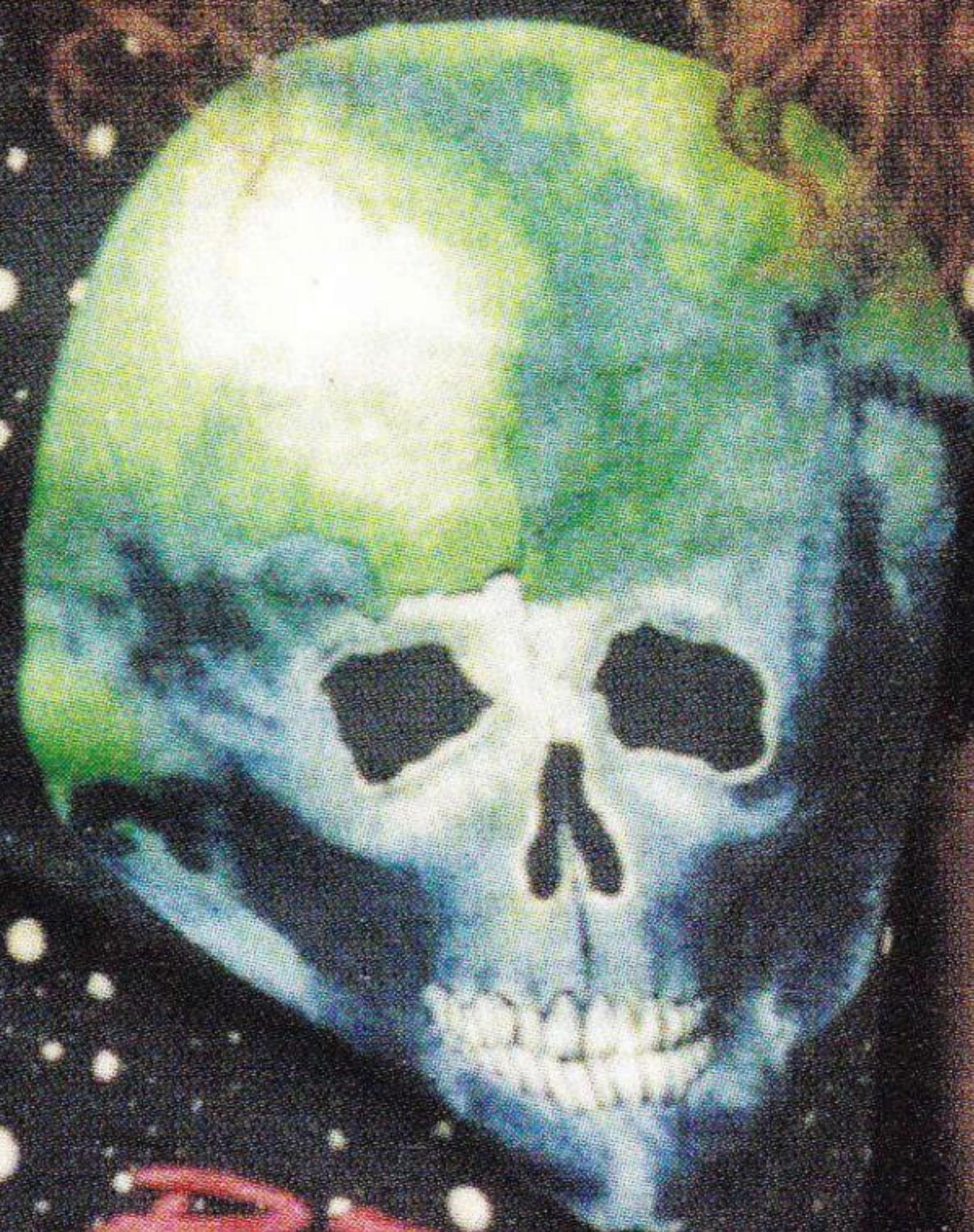


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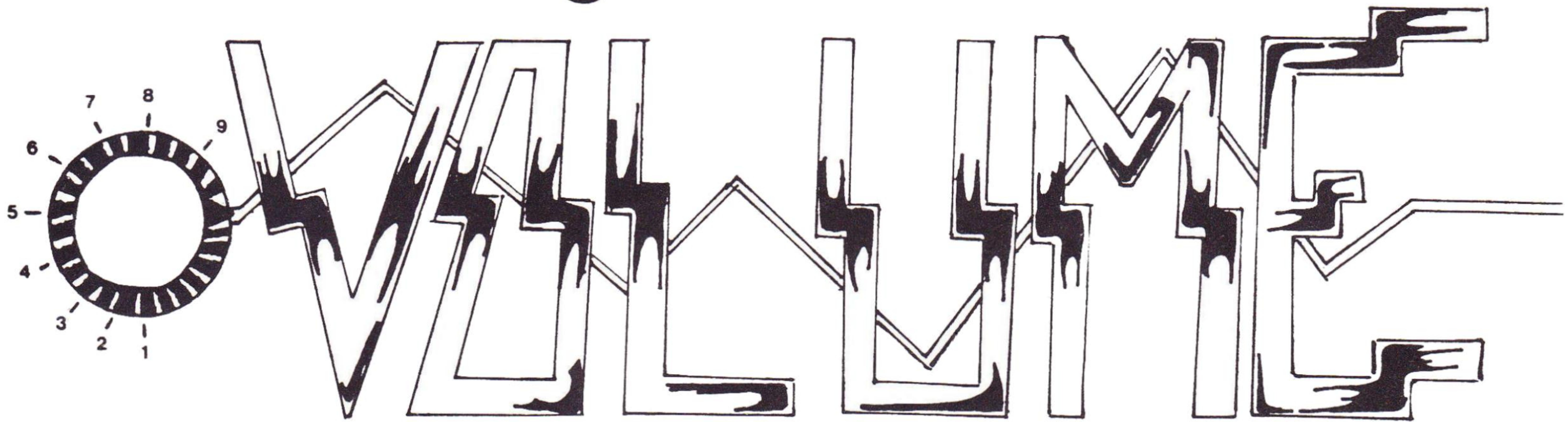


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alone. Two local groups opened, and over 1,000 decisions for Christ were made at this concert. "It was the first American rock concert ever in that country, Christian or secular," states Seraiah drummer Kyle Dietz, who filled in on drums after Xalt drummer Todd Gleason left the band.

Seraiah will go back into the studio in March to quickly follow-up on its debut album, "Carnival World." Eternal Ryte will hit the studio for its second LP in January. Xalt will do the same in February. Also in February, we can expect to hear the long-awaited Novella album. A new album from Whitecross should come out sometime around May. Rex Carroll was recently in the studio producing a Screamin' Eden cut for an upcoming Pure Metal sampler. Other bands on the sampler will be Legacy, and KIGA.

Eternal Ryte recently had its songs "Tightrope Dancer" and "You And Me" featured on KLOS-FM's "Best of the Local Licks" show. Awright guys!

Electrik is currently looking for a full-time bassist. Interested parties may contact the band at: PO Box 4130, Redondo Bch CA 90278. Another band looking for a musician is Ruscha. They're looking for a guitarist. Interested shredders can write: 112 S Main St, Dickson TN 37055.

Final Axe will release "Burn In Hell," a 14-song full-length album in mid-February. A 5-song primer for the album is reviewed in this issue.

Sanxtion is currently booking shows. Interested parties can call (412) 443-6491.

The Music Access Project is a new, computerized way to promote independent music. It basically involves a 1-900 number that can be called for 95 cents/minute. You will be able to listen to three to ten minutes of commercially available independent music and find out how to obtain it. Bands can promote their music free and track how many people call about their songs, etc. For more information, write: Box 179022, Times Plaza Sta, Brooklyn NY 11217; or call (718) 398-2146.

Deliverance now has available a full backpatch with with the "bloodplat" or "papal cross" design. For ordering info, write: PO Box 283, Fallbrook CA 92028.

Cliff Powell, who tried to publish a zine called Headbanging Jesus Style, apologizes for his failure. "I'm really sorry for the dumb stuff that happened. If you lost money and want it back, write me at: Houghton College, CPO Box 1408, Houghton NY 14744."

Lancaster, California not only houses one of Christian music's greatest bands in Seventh Seal, but a couple other interesting bands. One is called Faxx, which has been working hard on a new style of harder edge stuff and five-part vocals. Another local band is called Vicious Fishes. For further info on either band, write: CPR Productions, 44349 Lowtree Ave, Ste 167, Lancaster CA 93534; or call (805) 945-0762.

Okay, the New Talent Contest for Cornerstone '91 is coming up. This year's contest will be sponsored by two companies. Frontline/Intense will sponsor the Metal category, and Myrrh will sponsor the alterna-



Scott Doerfler, Kyle Dietz, and Randy Carlson in a Salapa, Guatemala village

tive. Demo packets must include: a three-song demo tape, with your best song first; a lyric sheet for each song enclosed; at least three references, one from a pastor who knows the band, the other two should be performance references (promoters, coffee houses, clubs, etc); bio material, including photo (please include phone number of contact person). No material can be returned, and becomes the property of either Myrrh or Frontline/Intense. Deadlines for the metal category are March 1, 1991, which means they must have it by then! (or you don't play) Six finalists will be selected in each of the two categories. Finalists will be notified by either record company. The alternative side really has it better, because its six finalists will appear with other Myrrh acts appearing at the festival on a special compilation Cornerstone '91 cassette by Myrrh Records, which will be released two to three months prior to the festival. Because of the cassette release, the alternative band deadline is February 1, 1991. Send all packets to: New Band Search, Cornerstone '91, 939 W. Wilson, Chicago IL 60640.

The entire Stryper/Ratt/Vixen tour was cancelled by Ratt.

One Bad Pig is heading back into the studio in February. Billy Smiley will once again be at the production helm. Look for a June release.

Ken Tamplin of Magdallan says that the new project they are working on "could be the finest record ever produced, sonically speaking." One song has 90 tracks of vocals on it! Those who have heard it say it sounds like Rush, early Queen, and late Yes.

Okay, it's "soapbox time." Attention bands: If music has the incredible prophetic potential that we think it does... If we can assume that music is a cutting edge prophetic ministry for our times, then let's get our act together and grow up! Let's not entertain this romantic attitude that an artist can behave in a Bohemian, non-conformist,

footloose, and unaccountable manner--just because he or she is an artist. All ministers of God are servants, and servants are to be accountable to one another. No musician is somehow above rebuke due to their calling and gifting. As Christians, we all have a responsibility to represent Christ to those around us--and Christ is holy and righteous. With God's help, we can live uprightly, and act humbly when we fall down. Got the message? HM

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

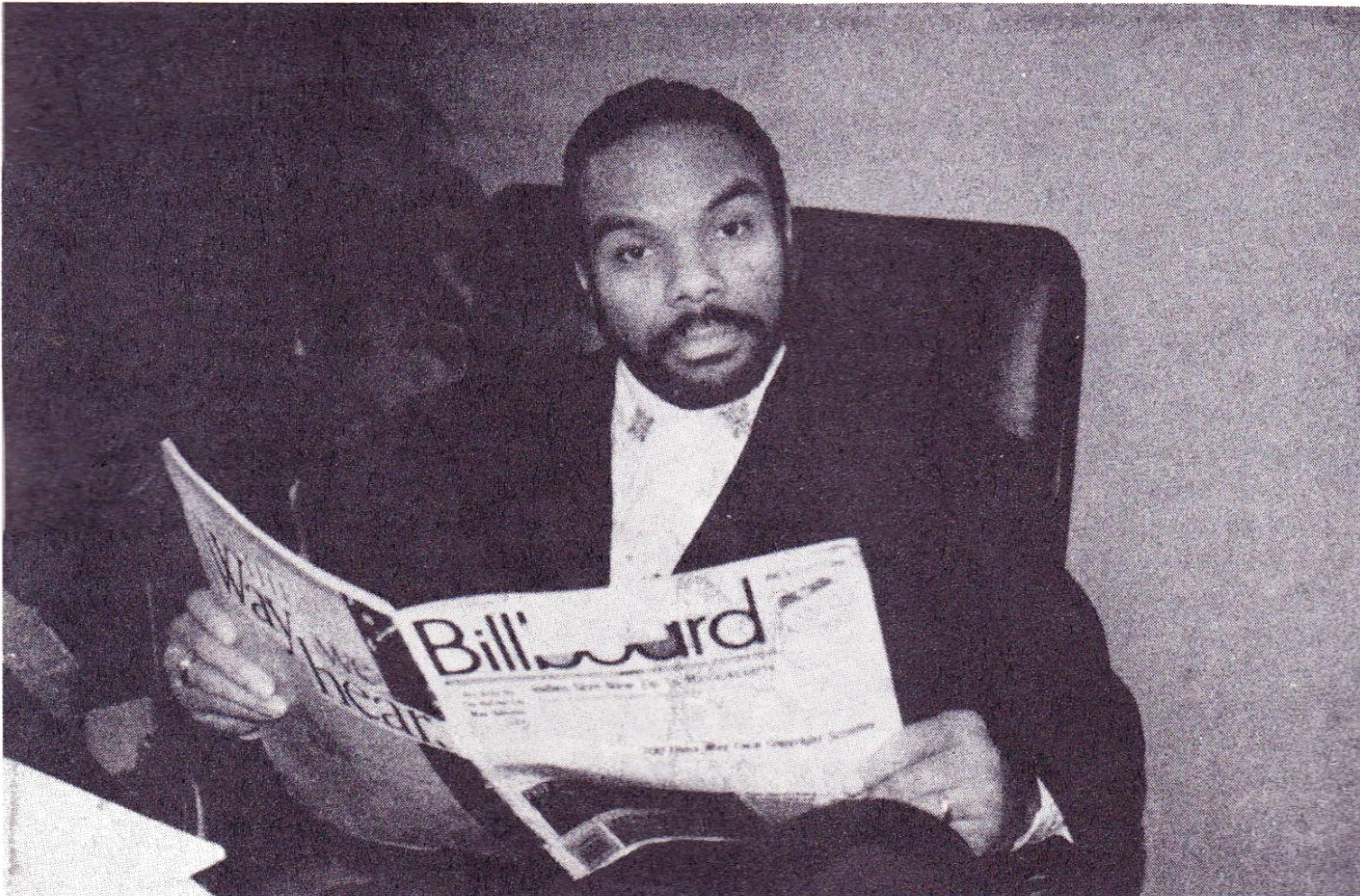
Cross Rhythms is an amazing new 76-page monthly magazine which gives you the lowdown on Europe's gospel music scene.

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MEET THE INDUSTRY

By Randy Rocker



Dez Dickerson

Since the conception of Stryper in 1984 with the release of "The Yellow And Black Attack," Christian metal has been a growing art. Stryper's debut, released on the secular label Enigma Records, gained them international fame and also paved the way for hundreds of other Christian 'Metal Missionaries' to turn their amps to eleven. At this point Christian rock was no stranger to the church. Bands like Petra and The Resurrection Band (REZ), were shouting scriptures before the members of Stryper were even considering throwing Bibles to clubgoers on the Hollywood Strip. Although Christian rock was not a new concept, what made Stryper so popular?

Wes Hein, presently Executive Vice President for the newly formed secular label Hollywood Records and then an executive with Enigma says it all began in a small studio in Southern California. "In early 1983 I was working with a band that we later signed, called SSQ, who later changed her name to Stacey Q. A couple of guys with long hair came into the studio and said, 'Wow, you're from Enigma? We want to give you a tape.' The three of them came up and gave me a tape. It just knocked me outta my socks! The songs were great and it was different. The three people were Robert Sweet, Michael Sweet, and Oz Fox," explains Hein. Hein reports it wasn't the Christian lyrics that got his attention though, "The reason I signed Stryper, who was known as Rott Regime at that point, was because they were a great rock band. They were just a great rock band and they happened to be Christians. It seemed like everybody else thought it was a bigger deal than I did. It got a tremendous amount of press. This is the music business and the music should come first," notes Hein.

On a more recent notation, Christian metal seems to grow with popularity every year. While still in its infantile stages, 1990 saw many popular CCM labels release

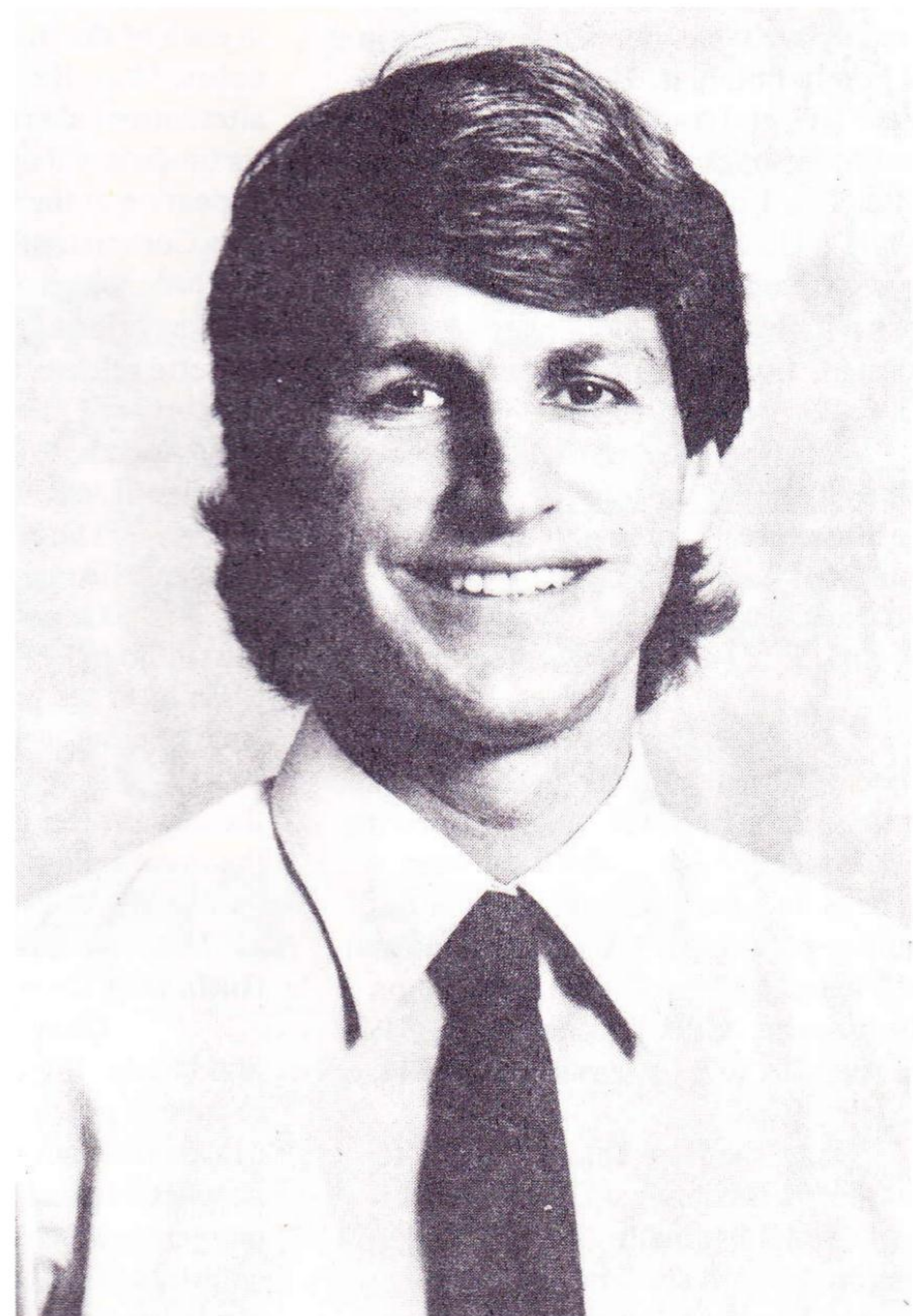
Christian metal projects. Word Records brought us Holy Soldier and One Bad Pig on the Los Angeles based Myrrh label. Known for releasing albums by popular artists such as Amy Grant and Russ Taff, metal was a new challenge Word was ready to take on. Mark Maxwell, A&R rep with Myrrh Records, says the search for a Christian metal band was long, yet rewarding. "I think the attractive thing about Holy Soldier and One Bad Pig is that they are both very unique. They're not copy-cat bands of a secular group out there. They have something real unique and a drive for what they are doing. That's the greatest thing about both of them. I hope that we can continue to find more hard rock and metal bands that are like that," states Maxwell.

Recently the popular Christian metal label Pure Metal, roster-ing bands such as Whitecross, was sold to Nashville based Star Song Records. Dez Dickerson, former guitarist with Prince, presently Vice President of A&R, states that Star Song was searching for metal talent even before the acquisition of Pure Metal. Explains Dickerson, "Since I

began talking to Star Song, which was the fall of '89, they had been looking for metal bands to sign. The opportunity came along to buy an entire label rather than signing one or two bands. It fits in with a desire, plan, and a goal the company's had for some time now."

Caesar Kalinowski is a household name for many involved in the Christian metal industry. The former owner of Intense Records, which brought us Vengeance Rising and Deliverance, has been on staff for record labels such as Pure Metal and Frontline Records. A noted producer as well, having worked in the studio with bands such as Whitecross and Eternal Ryte, this has brought him in constant demand. His current endeavor is the newest Christian rock label Wonderland Records, which has a distribution deal with Word Records. "Gavin Morkel (who manages Whitecross and Believer, and a former executive at Pure Metal) was able to put together a distribution deal with Word for a new label. He hired me to be involved with A&R and in producing. The first two releases were Jet Circus from Sweden and a group from Los Angeles called The Stand. We're also finishing a record from a group called Fighter from Iowa. Fighter is scheduled for February," explains Kalinowski.

Pakaderm Records is owned by the pros of production, John and Dino Elefante. Producing albums ranging from artists such as Petra, Barren Cross, Guardian, and fronting their own band, Mastodon, Pakaderm's policy



Wes Hein

is quality--spiritually and musically. "It's something that we wanted to do for a long time," notes the former Kansas vocalist John Elefante while explaining the reason for starting Pakaderm. Elefante adds, "We wanted to stay with the careers of the bands as opposed to producing their records and letting them go."

With a roster of punk, thrash, and recently experimenting with alternative, R.E.X. Records, though small, has made a big impact on Christian metal. "We're trying to keep the company small purposely with a small roster of artists," notes Doug Mann, top man at R.E.X., who has released albums from Believer, The Lead, and No Laughing Matter.

With the growing attention of Christian metal, there is no question 1991 will be a new year guaranteed to surface new growth, new talent, and many changes. Many labels are presently searching for new metal bands to release in 1991. Wonderland Records hopes to release six to eight albums a year reports Kalinowski. "I think you'll see us with six to eight releases a year. The first couple of years we really want to be working artist development and not just plucking out fifty or eighty releases a year," he states. Kalinowski adds, "Wonderland's not strictly a metal label. Right now in metal there's a lot of 'hybridizing' going on and a lot of mixing of styles. I'd like to find a Christian band like that... I think we're going to see a lot of bands hit in the first half of the 90's."

Mark Maxwell of Myrrh says the purpose of signing a band is to further a band's ministry. Maxwell states, "To me, what a record company is, is to support a ministry that is already happening with a band. That was one of the major factors in being interested in Holy Soldier, because they were a band that was out playing, they had strong management backing them, and they had a real vision of what they were doing."

Star Song rep Dickerson strongly agrees with such a philosophy. "We're looking for people that believe they have a ministry calling. Are you already out doing what it is that you do? In other words, are you sitting home waiting for the world to come to you, waiting or expecting a record company to back up to the front door with a dump truck full of money? There are also some real mundane considerations: What does the band or artist look like? How do they communicate and how do people respond to them on stage?"

Hollywood's Wes Hein honestly admits he's open to signing Christian talent, yet sees little originality. "I had gotten Christian rock tapes and found that they were so incredibly boring. I felt that they were all trying to be Christian versions of secular bands. When I look at the product that's out there, I don't see a tremendous amount of creativity. I don't see why Christian rock bands shouldn't be even more sort of outrageous and even more in the forefront than their secular counterparts. Send me a tape that blows me away."

Though Christian music produces constant fruit, there are those who may still differ it is a proper tool to be used for God. Dickerson laughs, "What can you ever say to a skeptic? I think that whenever we try to

convince people of something, and solely take the responsibility on ourselves for convincing someone of something, we fail miserably. If the Spirit of God is alive and moving in that vehicle, then people will be convinced by the Holy Spirit."

Perhaps the facts will speak for themselves opposing any disagreements that God can use heavy metal. Doug Mann of R.E.X. concludes with the following recent report. He shares, "I was talking to Nina, the bass player for The Lead, the other day and it just blew my mind. This one particular letter just blew us all away. Nina received this letter

from this teenager who was in this hardcore music shop. When he saw The Lead's 'Burn This Record' cassette, he thought it looked cool, so he shoplifted it. Obviously, he wasn't a Christian then. He stole it with the intention of committing suicide. While he was listening to the tape, just as he was about to pull the trigger on the gun, the song Suicide Is A Lie came on. The song just made him stop and then he started reading the lyrics. He then hooked up with a local church and accepted the Lord! When he wrote them the letter, he was apologizing for shoplifting the tape and also thanked them for what they were doing." HM



Mark Maxwell with Paul Q-Pek and Doug Van Pelt

WHITE THRONE ISSUE #7 IS NOW OUT!!!

The new issue has 52 full-size pages jammed-packed with all the latest White Metal news and information you could possibly ask for on the subject of Christian Heavy Metal. Check out the mag's new pro look, complete with glossy cover and over 85 thorough, honest album and demo reviews. Discover great new metal bands who have a heart for Jesus. The longest interviews with REZ and KING'S X ever put to print. Also has interviews with TOURNIQUET, LIGHTFORCE, and one of the hottest new bands REMNANT. Check out the Thrash Report for news on major thrash bands and the up and comers like ORDAINED FATE, LIVING SACRIFICE, and ORDER OF CHAOS. Read the Swedish Metal Report to learn what's new with the many talented bands from Sweden. Want the inside scoop on what happened to NEON CROSS? It's all here. Inquiring minds want to know. Less than 6 pages of advertising so it's mostly reading and great photos. Sound good? We're so sure you'll love this issue, we are offering a money back guarantee. Any unsatisfied customer may return the issue for a full refund within 10 days of receiving it. If you know you want this issue, subscribe now for the next four issues at our regular price and we'll throw #7 in free of charge. A limited quantity of #7 are available, as our previous issue sold-out, and this offer expires Mar 1, 1991, so order today. (This offer is only for U.S./Canadian residents.) Send \$3 today for issue #7 or send \$10 for a 4-issue subscription (#8-#11) and get #7 free, (Canadian's send a \$15 Postal Money Order in U.S. funds for a subscription), to: WHITE THRONE, P.O.Box 20577, Dept. "HM", Castro Valley, CA 94546 U.S.A.

GETTING GRACE-FULL



Dudley Hall

The following is an interview done at Texas Alive '90 with one of my favorite preacher/teachers, Dudley Hall. Dudley taught two nights at the festival and led a youth worker's workshop. He is the founder of Successful Christian Living Ministries out of Euless, Texas, and author of the book Let's Be The Church. This is part one of a three-part interview.

****The unity of the body of Christ is really on my heart. I know it's on yours. Did you experience a change in your attitudes towards the body of Christ as a whole? If so, how did that happen? Or, did you always just have a real love for the whole body?**

"My experience was Baptist," says Dudley. "I grew up in a Baptist church simply because my parents were Baptist. I wasn't smart enough at age six to be able to distinguish all the different denominational religions, so that's where I went. I came to know Jesus in a Baptist church. I had a Baptist thinking-pattern. I went to college on a football scholarship. My mentality of serving God was: you need to pay God back for saving you; and when He blesses you, you really need to pay Him back. So, I prayed a lot in order to become a good football player, like 'If You help me be a good football player then I'll give You all the glory,' and that kind of bargaining.

"I did real good at first. I started as

a freshman, and had a promising career ahead. I was injured, broke my hip, and went to the hospital. I couldn't play football anymore, so it was a real devastating deal. In the midst of that devastation, and me re-evaluating what it was all about, I really I felt like I disappointed God. All the promises I made I couldn't keep, because I was going to use athletics as a platform from which to tell about Jesus. It wasn't going to work. I wasn't going to be an athlete, so I felt like a real failure.

"It was in that experience, of crying out and feeling worthless, that the revelation that Jesus loves me, just me--without any performance--broke into my life. I can't give credit to anybody, except just the grace of God. It wasn't like I was studying for it and asking for it. In the midst of that I became aware that Jesus loved me if I never did anything. If I stayed in the hospital, or if I lived in a wheelchair, that I was worth Jesus to God the Father. That got inside me, and starting then I began to have a hunger for people not to see religion and divisions and doctrine, but life; because I had experienced something more than what I call 'propositional Christianity,' where you just believe a proposition, and work the rest of your life based on that proposition. I experienced love, I mean unconditional love. I mean, I felt wonderful. I felt chosen. I felt special, even though I could do nothing. I was no more an athlete. Nobody knew my name. I had nothing to recommend me to the world or for God, except I had this incredible sense inside of me that I was really important, and it was strictly my relation with Jesus.

"I wish we would outlaw one phrase: 'My ministry.'"

"So, I had grown up in a little bitty Baptist church with 50 people. I knew nothing about evangelism. The only evangelist I knew was Billy Graham, because I had seen him on tv. I knew nothing about awakenings and revivals, but I had a insatiable hunger to know how God worked to move people from dead religions into life. That started when I was a sophomore in college, so I became a student in awakening and revival, and started studying how God did it. That really was the beginning. From that point on, I could not stand the divisions that divided the believers. I saw that they were so stupid. We don't argue about the Lord's Supper and baptism, or preferences, and cultural differences, it's so dumb. If people just see that life, that joy, the fact that we're loved by God. I mean, good grief, what does all this other stuff matter? So, it was out of that initial revelation that my whole life has kind of come along, and so mostly my message has been the Gospel to the saved. You preach

the Gospel to the lost man, but the saved people need it too, because they're really sad. They're bound up in religion.

"I remember I was talking to Uncle Henry, who used to be on PTL. I asked him, 'Tell me your story. Tell me when you were saved.' He said, 'I came to know Jesus at a certain age, and then I went into rebellion for 15 years.' He told me how Pat Robertson prayed for him and he came back to God. So he turned to me and said, 'Tell me your story.' I said, 'I was saved when I was 10 or 12 too, and I went into religion for 15 years.' That really is true, because I went into trying to perform for God, and to be a good boy. All the time I was in college and high school, I was a good boy. I didn't drink. It wasn't because I didn't want to, but because I wasn't supposed to and I wanted to be a good boy. I wasn't promiscuous--not because I didn't want to, I mean, I had as much lust as anybody--but I just wanted to be a good boy. That's what God wanted you to be: a good boy. But I had no power inside. It was just a struggle. It was a 'deny everything' type reality. So, I came to find out that you could know God, and He loved you unconditionally, and He would change you from the inside; and it was wonderful.

"I like to preach the Gospel to the saved. I think they need it just as bad as the lost people. That's kind of been my focus; but more and more I want to see the walls come down that divide Christians. I'm convinced that God didn't put up any. I was praying one time... I was in a city, and the churches were fighting. I had been there and been part of a meeting, and God had done some wonderful things, but as a result of all the good things, the guys got to fighting over who's in charge. I was praying, and heard myself crying, 'Oh God! Your church is so divided.' In the inside I heard God say, 'Not the way I look at it. I don't see it divided.' He said, 'My Son tore down every wall of partition.' It's in Ephesians. And, 'If My Son tore down the partitions, there are none. So, you've got to learn to see it the way I see it.' So I quit looking at the walls. I no longer recognize denominational lines. I no longer recognize doctrinal lines. We've got to quit recognizing them, or they're always gonna be there. They're artificial. They're man-made. God didn't put 'em there, so let's quit looking at 'em. I refuse to look at 'em. I refuse to let it be a distinction in my life. The more that I can do that, the more they don't exist, until I can say today, 'As much as I know my own heart, there are no divisions in the body. If you know Jesus, you're a brother. You may be at one level of maturity, and I at another, but that has absolutely nothing to do with whether or not you're acceptable, or what brand of Christian you are. That's brought a lot of freedom in my own life.

"If I had one word for every Christian, I wish every Christian could learn the great joy of sitting down inside. I am totally convinced that you can't do anything in the Christian life from a standing position inside. I mean, when you sit down inside, when you enter into the rest of Jesus, then you can hear

God: as to what ministry you're supposed to do; what your gifts are; who you are--as opposed to your significance in your serving; and how you relate to others. The man who is still seeking for any kind of significance or security out of his performance or other people's opinion, he's not ready to minister.

"The one thing that I see that probably hinders more ministers than anything else, is people who are trying to minister before they learn to sit down. Before you enter into the rest, if you try to minister, you'll minister in the flesh and in your own power. You'll burn out and get yourself in the way, and you don't even know you're doing it. You don't mean to. I don't really know any minister who means to get in the way. I don't know any group who, in their heart, sits down and says, 'We would like to get all the glory for ourselves and none to God.' They all want to do right, but until they sit down inside, they're confused. They don't know how to do it.

"If God were to say to me, 'I am going to grant you one thing. What would you do?' I would take the heart of every Christian, and cause it to sit down in Jesus. Because then your ear's open to His voice. Then you can hear Him say, 'Go to Poland,' or 'Go to Orlando, go to Nashville, start this, start that.' You'll do it because you're doing it out of His

impetus. He starts it. But, until you do it (sit down), you don't know if it's your idea, or if it's your glory, or for your security. To me, that's probably the greatest need among ministers. I wish we would outlaw one phrase: 'My ministry.' There is no such thing. We're all in the same ministry. We get to protecting 'my ministry.' Promote 'my ministry.' That's got to die, because we just need to minister to each other and let Jesus be magnified.

"I was thinking this morning about...it says 'that the glory of a woman is a man.' I was thinking about how we're married to Jesus. We're in the feminine role. Jesus is the bridegroom and we're the bride. I thought, 'Well, you know who the glory of the bride is? It's the bridegroom.' If we quit worrying about our own achievements and our own significance and securities, and just brag about our husband, we'd be happy brides. Any wife who is getting her joy from her husband's achievements is a happy woman. The woman who is trying to get her own achievements and her own significance apart from her husband is a miserable woman. So I was thinking, 'Wouldn't it be great if we could all get free enough to do that?' Isn't that a good idea?"

Amen. If you'd like to get on Dudley's mailing list, or order any of his books or tapes, write: Successful Christian Living Ministries, Box 101, Euless TX 76039. HM

1990 READER'S POLL

Well, it's been another good year for Christian heavy metal, and now it's time for you to decide what your favorites were for the year. Here's the categories, and there's one vote per category, so rack your brain and send 'em in before March 1st.

- 1) Favorite album of the year
- 2) Favorite live band
- 3) Favorite bassist
- 4) Favorite singer
- 5) Favorite drummer
- 6) Favorite guitarist
- 7) Favorite album cover
- 8) Favorite band
- 9) Favorite thrash/speed band
- 10) Favorite custom/independent tape
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- 12) Favorite song
- 13) Favorite lyricist
- 14) Favorite new band
- 15) Favorite alternative band
- 16) Biggest disappointment

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LICKS & TRICKS

By Jeff Scheetz



Greetings!

Since I had a lot of response regarding the column on substitute arpeggios, this time I'm going to cover a couple more possibilities.

All forms of music can sometimes become a little bland. Heavy metal is particularly susceptible to this because of the abundance of power chords (root and fifth), along with other two-note chords that are used.

1. F [#] maj. 9 [#] 5

				1
			1	
		2		
9	3		3	
			4	4

2. F [#] maj. sus 4

			1	1
				2 2
		3		
9	4	4		

Although these chords do give you that nasty sounding "chunk-chunk," after listening to about 3 CDs worth of the same tonality it gets monotonous. Here is where the brave guitarist can proudly step forward, armed with an arsenal of substitute arps, and turn the ordinary into the extraordinary!

I've written out two widely used power chord sequences, along with two interesting sounding arpeggio possibilities to go with them. Play the chords in Bar 1, then insert the first arpeggio in Bar 2. Continue by playing the chords in Bar 3 and then the second arpeggio in Bar 4. I've refrained from writing the arpeggios out in a specific rhythm pattern so you can use your imagination on the timing. However, if you notice, by starting out on the lowest note of the arpeggio, playing up and then down the remaining notes and ending on the lowest note, you have a total of 13 notes. One pretty cool way to phrase these 13 notes over four beats is to play a group of four notes over the first beat (sixteenths), a group of six notes over the second beat (sextuplet) and a group of three notes over the third beat (triplet), with the last note sustaining over the fourth beat.

The rhythm possibilities are endless, so experiment! Unfortunately, the space for my column is not, so, until next time... HM



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- * **Notebored:** \$5 for 6 issues. \$1 for current issue. (Checks or MO only) Box 202, RD 1, Atglen PA 19310.
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- * **Christian Musicians United** is an organization designed to educate, motivate, and unify the musical servants of our Lord-Jesus. All styles represented. For more info, and a free copy

of CMU Magazine, write: CMU, PO Box 20, Wood 11421; or call (718) 296-5536 9-5 M-F.

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* **WHITECROSS** seeking full-time dr Chicago area or relocate. Send tape, photo, and info Whitecross, PO Box 9191, Waukegan IL 60079.

* **Adonai Metal Rock**, a French Christian metal ra and zine. They need demos, pictures, and bios. Send Adonai Metal Rock, Daniel Baillod, Fregimont, 47 30 Prayssas, France. For a copy of their zine, send \$5.

* **Gospel Metal** - The LA mag that Satan doesn't w read! With the release of each new issue, more dam being done to the kingdom of hell. Done on a quality tosh Plus computer with laser printing and hot-lookir this zine covers albums and reviews demos, interview: known and underground bands, and tops it off with c ing, in-your-face topic studies. For a sample issue, se Keith Day, 3331 E. Romelle, Orange CA 92669.

* **The Pendragon:** c/o Jeff McCormack, 5305 "C" MS 39530...is going out of print! Jeff promises to ref anyone who is owed money.

* **Cross Rhythms** - Europe's leading music mag. Pi metal, indie. Send 3 British Pounds in International M Order for fat, 76-page issue, or go crazy and spend 32 Pounds for a 12-issue subscription to: Cross Rhythm High Street, Birmingham, B12 0LD, England.

* **Radically Saved:** \$2 for sample, \$4 overseas or \$8 hot issues (\$12 overseas). Radically Saved c/o Marty 11258 103rd Ave, Kimball MN 55353.

* **Different Drummer** - an alternative Christian mu News, reviews, articles, poetry, and stuff on the most alternative and underground music available. Only \$1 sample issue (\$2.50 overseas) or \$6 for a subscription overseas) to: Different Drummer, c/o Erin Hooper, Quartz Ln D-4, Fullerton CA 92631.

* **White Metal Review** - A new Christian metal mag designed to give your group (ministry): Promotion; R your music; and a chance to let the world know you. : music, photo's, and/or info and correspondence to: P 409, Reading MI 49274.

* **KIMBRA** - Free zine covering cCm, social issues, of books, music, and videos. Write: PO Box 1752, At SD 57402-1752.

* **HUNGARIAN UNDERGROUND MAGAZIN** issue will be 16 pages. Send \$9 for 6-issues or \$1.50 ea Write: PO Box 11516, 1001GM, Amsterdam, Holland

* **Ransom Magazine:** radical Christian writing from Send 10 British Pounds (or USA equivalent) in Intern Money Order for a six issue subscription. Send to Ra Belle Vue Road, Lincoln, Lines, LN1 1HH, England.

* **The Christian Music Trader.** Plug into us to buy, trade your Christian music. Free advertising for subsc Christian music classified, reviews, music charts, and n Send \$1 for your sample! CMT, PO Box 680333, Orla 32868-0333.

* **Real Alternative Press** Young underground 'zine. demos, etc. Write: Larry Miles, 8596 Woodhaven SW Center MI 49315. Subscriptions \$6; \$1 sample copy.

* **New underground zine** starting in England. Need: press kits, etc. Write: James Perry, Wicksted Court, Croeswylan Lane, Oswestry, SY10 9PN, England.

* **The Obligator** \$1 for a trial issue or \$5 for five-issu subscription. Foreign and Canadian orders please wri rates. Send to: Mark Hodges, PO Box 915, Muskego 49443-0915.

* **Rain Magazine** \$4.88 for 6 issues. Send to: The R Box 192, Robertsville OH 44678.

* **Fellowship Line** is here, covering Detroit music an national music scene, plus Bible study, commentary, pr etc. For more info or copy, write to: Verity Club, 113: Detroit MI 48227.

* **Crossfire Magazine:** A rapidly growin minded publication for every Christian metalhead! Int news, devotionals, fiction, and much more. (Bands ser tapes!) \$1.25/issue or \$5/one year subscription. Send i

Arpeggio 1

Arpeggio 2

Crossfire, 2224 Taylor Drive, Olathe KS 66062.

* Looking for **hard-to-find Christian albums** you can't find in stores? Send a business size self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Itinerant Iconoclast, 370 Greentree Lane, Milan MI 48160 for a free catalog of the largest and best selection of rare and hard-to-find rad tunes in the universe.

* **White Rock** is a Swedish Christian metal zine. \$3 per issue. Write: c/o Roland Engstrom, Faltspatvagen 46, 2 steps, S-803 34 Gavle, Sweden. Bands: send demos, etc.

* **Gregorian Chants** - A Hippie Monks alternative music rag. Send ten cents and a SASE to: 2005 Palo Verde Ave, #230, Long Beach CA 90815.

* **T-GARR Magazine** - c/o Tim S. Sutherland, HQ HST, Box 168, APG MD 21005. A diversified mag for diversified youth. Music that moves, 'n articles that make ya think. Don't be a schmuck! Get the T-GARR attitude! \$2.50/sample, \$15/sub (6 issues).

* **SHRAPNEL: THE CHRISTIAN METAL MAGAZINE.** News, Current Topics, Interviews, Reviews, Guitar Instruction, Production And Recording Hints, Comics, Humor, Science, Loads Of Pictures! Special Section For New Bands. Send \$3 for a sample copy or \$12 for a year long subscription. Shrapnel c/o BUBUS Distributing, 2810 Thousand Oaks, San Antonio TX 78232. (512) 496-9872.

* **Cephas:** The radical metal mag with bite. The first 15 subscribers win a **free Overdrive cassette!** \$2 an issue, or \$7 a year. Make checks payable to: Phil Powell, 9401 Caltor Ln, Ft. Washington MD 20744.

* **Secular Magazine** with a Christian editor seeks Christian demos, albums, videos, etc. for review. Get your music exposed to the secular market the right way. I guarantee a fair review with no religious persecution. Send complete package to Requiem c/o Andy Martin Jr, PO Box 50228, Raleigh NC 27650. Current issue with full-color cover--\$2 to same address.

* **Committed:** A drastic zine with an intense focus on cutting edge Christianity and rad tunes of truth. Subs are \$5-5 iss. \$1 for sample. 1321 Drivers Circle, Rocky Mt. NC 27804.

* **SCREAM!** zine. A hardcore Christian zine for those who just gotta scream back at the world. Let yourself be heard...SCREAM! \$6 for 6 issues. Write: SCREAM!, 229 Cunningham Dr, Rock Mount NC 27804.

* **Piranha** - The Christian metal mag with teeth! We need demos, etc. Subscriptions are \$5/year (4 issues). PO Box 11153, Blacksburg VA 24060.

* **ACM JOURNAL:** A pretty exhaustive listing of Christian rock music with addresses. Write: PO Box 1273, Sumner WA 98390.

* **ROCK & METAL ARTISTS:** You can be placed on Record, Radio and Stage in the College/Alternative market. Call (615) 776-5188.

* **PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION FOR CHRISTIAN ARTISTS** and bands. Custom art for tape/CD cover, logos, business cards, bios, press releases, brochures, complete press kits. Nova Communications, 5671 Heathwood Ct, Virginia Beach VA 23464.

* **Declaration:** A cool British magazine. (Bands send demos!) For a one-year subscription (4 issues), send 5 British pounds to: 136 Gravelly Lane, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 6LT, England.

* **ROCK TOWER NESLETTER** - Metal, rock, pop music reviews, Bible studies, and more. Sample copy \$2.50, or write for details. Follow The Light Ministries, PO Box 113, Absecon NJ 08201.

* **TEMPERED STEEL** is a weekly 2-hour Christian metal show featuring **ALL THRASH & HARDCORE**. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the show each week **AT NO CHARGE**, write or call: Tempered Steel c/o Dale Early, PO Box 1212, Ft. Myers FL 33902/(813) 275-3455.

* **WHITECROSS** seeking full-time drummer. Chicago area or relocate. Send tape, photo, and info sheet to: Whitecross, PO Box 9191, Waukegan IL 60079.

* **Golgotha** Heart-rocking metal band behind bars. Free zine for the asking. Write: Dallas Hans-75209, A.S.P.C.W., 2100 S. Hwy 87, Winslow AZ 86047-9790.

* **Drummer Needed:** Career-minded final member wanted. Original rock project. Excellent connections, facilities. Most essential requirements: (1) Christian integrity, (2) Excellent meter. Equipment, experience, appearance of lesser importance. Use your God-given talent without compromise of integrity. If you can master parts that revolutionize rock percussion, call to discuss further: 713/944-1727.

* Attn: **Unsigned Bands.** Order now! How To Keep From Getting Burned: The Complete Guide For Unsigned Bands. Vital and priceless information. Send \$5 to: JCR Productions, PO Box 37355, Raleigh NC 27627.

* **Rock Solid:** New radio ministry on secular oldies station. Need: prayers, encouragement, magz, demos, prefer CD. Also cassette, vinyl CCM 1970-1990...pix, artist's phone #'s, addresses...Rush to: Christopher Michael K, PO Box 2005, Paducah KY 42003. (502) 443-1000.

* **Very Secular** non-commercial Radio Station on a very secular campus requests LP's, CD's, cassettes, demos, bio material, etc. from Christian heavy metal, progressive/alternative, rap, and rock bands. Please help get the word out. We have a Sunday morning 3-hour Christian rock show, plus we mix Christian music in with our secular programming. Send to: KAOR-FM, 414 East Clark ST, USD, Vermillion SD 57069.

CHARTS

ROCK/METAL SALES CHART

Here is a sample of one store's sales (Ministries For Christ in Austin, Texas) from September through November. Next issue will begin a new sales chart compiled from over 133 stores, plus 2 mail order companies.

- 1 Hot Metal Summer 3
Various
- 2 Testimony Of Apocalypse
Sacrament
- 3 Weapons Of Our Warfare
Deliverance
- 4 Extraction From Mortality
Believer
- 5 Behind Enemy Lines
Recon
- 6 Holy Soldier
Holy Soldier
- 7 2nd Avenue
Idle Cure
- 8 Stop The Bleeding
Tourniquet
- 9 Swine Flew
One Bad Pig
- 10 Burn This Record
The Lead
- 11 The Crucified
The Crucified
- 12 Balance Of Power
Undercover
- 13 Your Dying Day
Haven
- 14 Human Sacrifice
Vengeance Rising
- 15 Rock Power Praise
Various
- 16 Call It Whatever You Want
Nobody Special
- 17 Trimmed And Burnin'
Kaiser/Mansfield
- 18 Crux Of The Mosh
Torn Flesh
- 19 Cool Tunes
Various
- 20 Walkin' By Faith
Angelica
- 21 Deliverance
Deliverance
- 22 Once Dead
Vengeance Rising
- 23 Innocent Blood
REZ
- 24 Gretchen Goes To Nebraska
King's X
- 25 Out Of The Darkness
Bloodgood

METAL RADIO CHART

Here are the TOP 20 METAL SINGLES (reprinted courtesy The CCM Update) as of December 3rd:

- 1 Rock The Hell Out Of You
Stryper
- 2 Minister By Night
Sacred Warrior
- 3 On Judgement Day
Haven
- 4 We Are Young, We Are Strong
Holy Soldier
- 5 Sacrifice
Crystavox
- 6 Accountable
X-Sinner
- 7 Nothing But The Blood
Mike Lee
- 8 I Kill Devils
Lex Rex
- 9 Weapons Of Our Warfare
Deliverance
- 10 Holiest One
Mastedon
- 11 Everybody Knows My Name
Bride
- 12 Philosophy Of Man
Greg Minier
- 13 Bowl Of Wrath
One Bad Pig
- 14 You Get What You Pray For
Tourniquet
- 15 World Come Crashing
Undercover
- 16 Take Us Away
Recon
- 17 Planned Parenthood
Lust Control
- 18 Piercing The Darkness
Xalt
- 19 Laughing Man
REZ
- 20 So Insane
Mad At The World

Courtesy:

THE CCM UPDATE

Pastor Bob's Column



Photo by Sandra Mayurnik

We're pumped! We're determined! We're "Boldly going where no ministry has gone before!" We look and act a little differently than most Christians in our society. Many people think we're rebellious--and in some ways we are. We're relating to the metal crowd in a way no one has ever related before in the history of the church, right? **Wrong!**

I want to talk about some other radical "long hairs" that you may have never heard of. In church history they're called "reformers." They didn't "blend in" with the religious society of their days. They were always in trouble with and misunderstood by the established church.

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) was a tall skinny guy with long blond hair. He believed that our relationship with the Lord was more important than the "social Christianity" of his day. He was booted by his first church because he didn't quite fit in. His views were too radical. But he continued to preach the uncompromising Word of God. Soon crowds of people gathered to listen to what he had to say.

He was soon joined by another "long hair" named George Whitefield. Together they began to bring the Gospel to the people of New England--much like the bands do when they travel doing concerts from city to city. In his last sermon, George Whitefield preached to approx. 20,000 people!

These guys were radical. They had a burning message within their hearts that they wanted people to hear. They were committed to personal holiness. They believed in applying the values of the Bible in their personal lives and in their relationships with other people. It was because of their commitment to excellence that God gave them success.

Today, we do things a little differently. We're committed to excellence--but not necessarily in the spiritual realm. If we would just spend as much time getting our spiritual lives in tune as we do our guitars...

We want to sing about Jesus, but we want to be "rock stars" too! We need to devote ourselves to the study of God's Word. We need to work on our personal integrity with the Lord and with the people around us--then we'll see greater results! The reason God used these "long hairs" was because they were completely devoted to Jesus Christ.

So let's put these two guys in our shoes today. How would they handle their ministry if they were in a Christian metal band? First off, they would have put their families first. They would have made sure the bills were paid before they bought that new Marshall stack. They would have made sure their wives were fed spiritually before they tried to feed anyone else.

Next, they would have preached the Word of God without compromise. That doesn't mean they would have changed the way they looked or the clothes they wore. They probably would have related. But people weren't saved because of the way they looked. They were saved because of the "relevant" message they had for their society. The thing that spoke so loudly about these guys was their personal lives. They were completely sold out to Jesus--and everyone knew it! Can you imagine 20,000 people at your next gig? People showing up just because they want to hear what you have to say? 20,000 people showing up to hear about the Bible?

Impossible you say? I don't think so. God is looking for a few good men...

HEY BUD! GET AHOLD OF PASTOR BOB'S TEACHING TAPES!

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3 Tape Series

RS101 Bootcamp

RS102 Living The Christian Life

RS103 Handling Relationships

RS111 Problem Management

RS112 The Holy Spirit

RS113 The Characteristics Of A Successful Christian

RS114 Being An Effective Witness

RS116 Do You Really Love God?

Single Tapes

RS01 Rightly Dividing The Word Of Truth

RS02 Spiritual Boredom

RS03 Recharging Your Spiritual Batteries

RS04 Sex And Love: The Real Story

RS05 The Burden Of A Great Potential: The Story Of Samson

RS06 Dealing With God's Will For Our Lives

RS07 Escape From Loneliness!

RS08 The Second Coming Of Jesus Christ

RS09 Without Faith It Is Impossible To Please God

RS10 Why Do So Many Fall Away From The Faith?

RS11 Why Doesn't God Answer My Prayers?

RS12 Paradise City

RS13 Asleep In The Light

RS14 How Much Do You Love God? The Example Of Abraham & Isaac

RS15 The Testimony Of The Apostles: Their Lives And Deaths

RS16 How To Spot A Cult

RS17 Satan And The Occult

RS18 Faith That Saves

RS19 Frustrated Christians

RS20 Be Creative!

RS21 Hindrances To Worship

RS22 Controlling Your Thoughts

RS23 Spiritual Warfare

RS24 Looking For The Perfect Mate

RS25 God's Power To Transform Your Life

RS26 How To "Just Say No!" A Study In James

RS27 Move Your Mountain: Turning Your Dreams Into Reality

RS28 Dealing With Your Sin: Who Do You Blame?

RS29 If I Were Satan...Understanding How He Works

RS30 Hanging On To Your Faith

RS31 Are You At War Within?

RS32 Are You In Denial?

RS33 Loosing Your Influence

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FROM THE PIT OF HECK

I just bought the Underground Metal II tape and was wondering about a line in the song "Victim Of The Night" by Phil Accardi's Chalice. It says, "You're killing yourself, but you don't give a damn." To me, the way he's using that word, it sounds like a cuss word. What do you think?

--David Smith
Harrisonburg, Virginia

(Ed--I think it sounds like a cuss word too. The song is very evangelistic overall, but I question the use of that word. I don't hold it against the band as a whole, but I do think that was a mistake.)

MAILBOX FRAUD?

I'm hoping you can help me with a slight problem. I ordered the Joshua album "Intense Defense" from Mailbox Music in April. I called twice, and the second time got a message that they have "gone out of business and all refunds due should be in the mail." I waited a couple weeks and sent them copies of cancelled checks. Yesterday I received my letter back in the mail, undeliverable as addressed. Do you know how I can get ahold of these people so I can get my money back? Thanks for your time and keep up the great work with your magazine.

--Leo Magitz
Wenonah, New Jersey

(Ed--When Guy, the owner of Mailbox Music, told me he was going out of business, I knew he'd have a mess on his hands straightening out unfulfilled business. He didn't fly the coup and rip everybody off; he was just losing money trying to keep the business going, so he thought it best to close up. He has promised me that he will be settling up all orders not fulfilled. If your situation hasn't been settled yet, I would suggest sending postcards to me, which I will pass on to the man in charge there.)

CONCERT FEVER

Is there any way I could get more information on upcoming Christian heavy metal concerts in Texas? I would also like to say that I'm thankful for the job you're doing in this ministry. I think you have helped to break some of the prejudices associated with this ministry. You have allowed people to get a good look at what some of these artists think and what they have dealt with in life through your interviews. They have made me think about things in my life. I just want to thank you for being involved with this type of music and helping me with my relationship with Christ. I'll be praying for you.

--Bradley Schroeter
Bryan, Texas

(Thanks for the encouragement. Praise the Lord! As far as concert info, all I can say is, "Keep your ear to the ground." Get acquainted with places and people where and who you can get concert info from. Christian

bookstores, church bulletin boards, Christian radio stations, local music papers...find people you know who have been to the concerts you've seen and stay in touch with 'em. Other than that, CCM, Christian Activities Calendar, Noteboard, and Heaven's Metal have concert listings printed in each issue.)

VIDEO FAMINE

Your magazine is awesome. I really like the color glossy cover and back and the poster. I have a question for you: What groups have videos for MTV that I could request when I have a chance?

--Micah Lehner
Princeton, Wisconsin

(Ed--"Crying Over You" by Barren Cross, which is kinda dated; "Shining Star" and "Two Time Woman" by Stryper; "See No Evil" by Holy Soldier; "Ark Of Suffering" by Tourniquet; and possibly "Give Me An Answer" by Shout are the only ones which are feasible to request. There just ain't a lot to choose from. You can buy some decent videos out there: Bloodgood's new ones; Stryper; Bride has some "custom" videos; Vengeance has a brand new one; Sanctuary offers one for the "Metal Mardis Gras" festival; Petra has a cool new one; Keith Miles from Final Axe has one from last summer's "Metal Meltdown," featuring Bride and Seventh Seal (!); and REZ has one. To request videos on MTV call 1-900-786-0688 (for 50-cents), or write: MTV, 1515 Broadway, 24th Floor, NY NY 10036.)

PEN PALZ?

I was wondering if you had a metal pen pal list. It would really be great. I don't know anybody up here in Ontario, Canada who likes Christian metal, punk, or thrash.

--Miss Robbi St. Pierre
Blenheim, Ontario

(Ed--Sorry, I don't. It would take up tons of room. There is a real cool monthly newsletter that does, called Take A Stand. PO Box 10741, Scottsdale AZ 85271. The Prayer Partners mentioned on page one could act as a pen pal. Classified ads in Heaven's Metal (at \$5 each) could be used for that as well.)

THAT'S PERSONAL!

I was wanting to know if there is any way that I can personally reach Ken Tamplin and also Dale Thompson.

--Corey Jennings
Clearwater, Kansas

(Ed--Those guys trust me with their phone number, but I do not want to violate their trust by giving out their home numbers. They need their privacy. I would suggest writing the band addresses listed on their tapes. When writing, be sure to legibly include your address and phone # on the letter itself, so they can contact

you.)

AIR MAIL ORDER

Just a drop from France to tell you that your magazine is really super!! I'll renew my subscription as soon as it's over! Well, I'd just like to ask you if there are addresses in Europe where I could order albums, but above all--demos. Also, I wish we had some Christian metal concerts or festivals here. I'm kind of jealous.

--Rachel Keheyann
Decines, France

(Ed--There's a place in Belgium called "Embryo Arts" that sells demos, mostly of alternative and punk stuff. Their address is: Nonnentalaan 52, B-3800, SINT-TRUIDEN, BELGIUM. There's a Christian rock shop in England that might be able to help you also. It's called Dual Edge, and located at: 8 Rupert Court, Wardour Street, London W1. As far as live shows go, Vengeance Rising had a tour scheduled this Fall, but it was cancelled! Bloodgood is planning on coming over. I'm not sure if they're gonna play in France. Contact Adonai Metal Rock for info: Fregimont, 47 360 Prayssas, France.)

SKATEBOARDING IS GREAT!

I am the only Christian skateboarder that I know, and I'd like to know if there were any Christian sk8 zines. Also, I wouldn't mind hearing from any other sk8rs in the same situation.

--Ron Goodrich Jr.
1002 17th St
R.I. Illinois 61301

(Ed--I'm a Christian skater! There are no Christian skate magazines that I know of. If you have some interest in publishing, I'd recommend getting in touch with an existing secular sk8 mag and changing it from the inside out. I'm sure you'll dig the skate shot of Roger Martinez in this issue!)

PARAMEDICALLY SPEAKING...

Not only is your magazine informative, but an excellent witnessing tool, also. With it and my collection of Christian metal tapes, the Satanic world of black metal is losing members daily.

Now, the other reason I'm writing is: In issue #25, you used a reference to "Ambulance Drivers, who would use Sacramento tapes to jar their patients back to life." My problem is not the use of the tape, but the "ambulance driver" wording. There is no such thing as "drivers." We are all very qualified professionals, with extensive medical backgrounds to be able to work on a unit. I am a Paramedic...To call a driver of an ambulance that, is like calling a police officer a "Patrol Car Driver." Thanks for this opportunity to straighten this out.

--Terry Snelling
Tulsa, Oklahoma

GREETINGS OF DEMOS

I've been trying to find Deliverance's album, "Greetings Of Death." If it is out, could you tell me where, or how I could get it?

--Steve Swartz
Warren, Michigan

(Ed--Nope...it was a demo and is no longer available, except the tune "J.I.G." on "Cool Tunes," which is available from Heaven's Metal.)

THE PUZZLE

R E P Y T S E C R O F T H G I I D N A B E L
A N G L C B E L I E V E Z S A C R E L W A R
D A N I E L B A N D B A R R E N K O C R O S
P S E R D O O G I P D A B E N O O C R T S S
I D C E E O K I G S X L I G H D N N U B S A
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O R G X D E L I V E R A N I P I P P D R C N
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S J N W H I T E C A R O S C Z S P G O O D
S C A R L E T R L R E V E I L E B A N D U T
E C R O F T N E M H C T A W S A R A Z I Z A
M A S T T E M P E S U C I T I V E L N I K W

THE PUZZLE by Marc Carpenter

"Hey, all you metalheads with nothing better to do! Test your knowledge and word-finding skills with this word search puzzle. I'll give you the name of the song, and the artist of each song is in the puzzle (total of 29 bands). This puzzle is restricted to above-ground bands; if you like this one, maybe I'll do an underground one sometime! Note that if any bands have "The" in front of their names, it is left out. Happy Searching!" (This is cool, because it's like two puzzles in one. See if you can simply name the band who did the song before you search for their name!--ed)

1. Anguish And Pain
2. Answer Our Call
3. Autograph
4. Best Friend
5. Covered By Blood
6. Danger Zone
7. Day Of The Lord
8. Don't Go Out
9. Fly Away
10. Give Your Life
11. God's Will Be Done
12. He Is God
13. I'm Not Getting Any Older
14. Kick 'Em Out
15. Less Of Me
16. Love That Will Survive
17. My Love I'll Always Show
18. Mystical Thieves
19. Not Even One
20. Outta The Way
21. The Pit
22. Rip Van Winkle
23. Signs Of The End
24. Skate Or Die
25. Sometimes
26. Through You
27. Timeless Love
28. Walk On The Water
29. Why

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2/7 Dallas TX *	312-989-2351
2/8 Houston TX *	312-989-2351
2/9 San Antonio *	312-989-2351
2/28 Hempstead NY	516-486-1358
3/1 Montclair NJ	201-343-5097
3/2 Pittsburgh PA	412-935-6800
3/7 Atlanta GA *	312-989-2351
3/8 Nashville TN *	312-989-2351
3/9 Louisville KY	502-231-0161
3/28 TBA	312-989-2351
3/29 New Orleans LA	504-851-5079
3/30 Pensacola Bch FL	904-932-5335
4/4 TBA	312-989-2351
4/5 Baltimore MD	301-987-4714
4/6 Philadelphia PA	215-341-5800
4/11 London, Ont. CANADA	519-661-0280
4/12 Hamilton, Ont. "	416-682-8151
4/13 Toronto, Ont. "	416-674-0466

* = To be confirmed

SFC

1/4 Stockton CA
3/2 Wexford PA
3/4 Marion NY

WHITECROSS

1/5 Epworth By The Sea	912-772-3757
4/5 Minneapolis MN	215-868-8713
4/29 State College PA	
4/30 Marion NY	

BELIEVER

2/8 Millersville MD
2/9 Fredericksburg VA
2/10 Richmond VA
2/12 Chattanooga TN
2/14 Kissimmee FL
2/15 Largo FL
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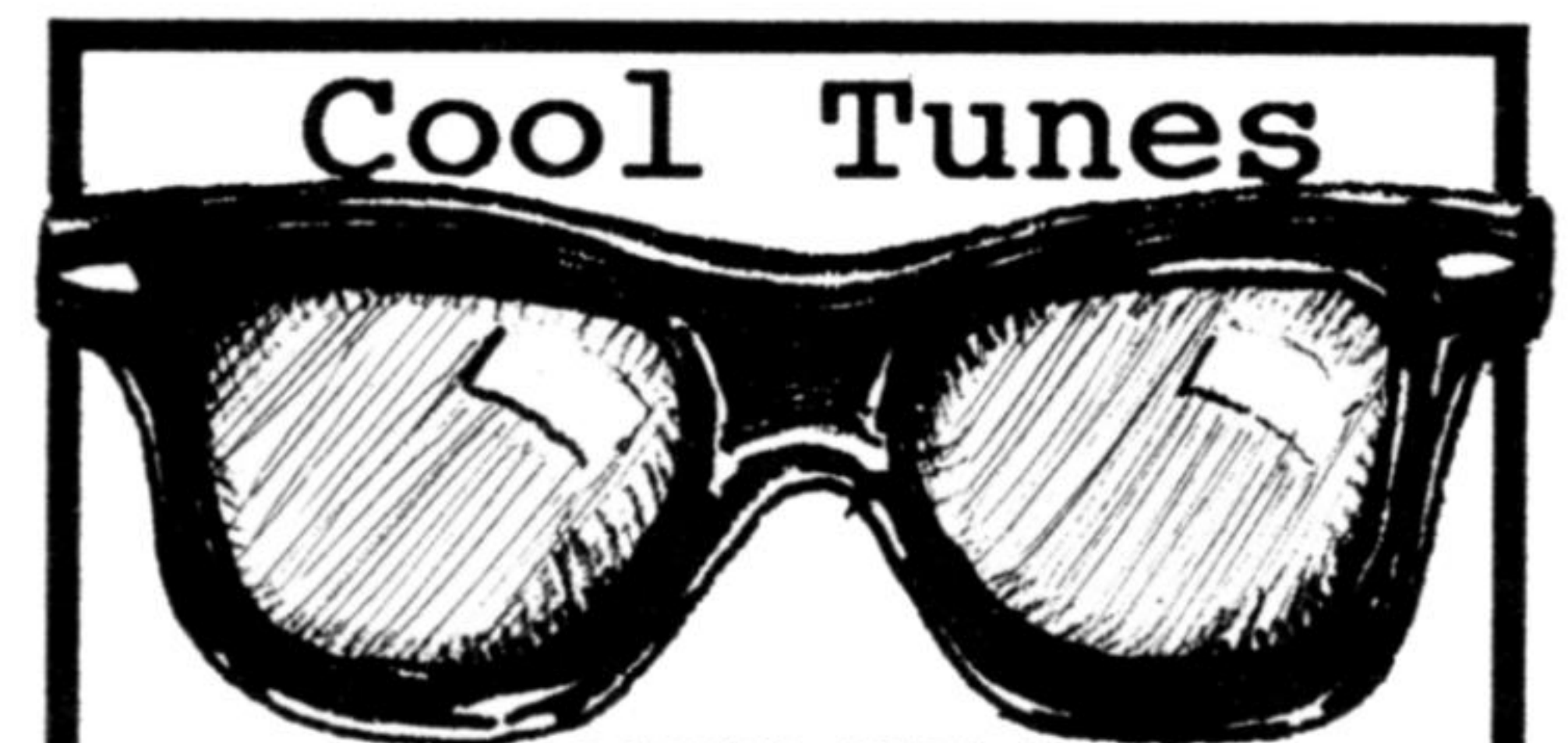
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1/17 Newburg IN
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1/19 Columbus OH
1/21 Berea KY
1/22 Chattanooga TN
1/23 Blacksburg VA
1/24 Austell GA
1/25 Clearwater FL
1/26 Coral Springs FL
1/27 Kissimmee FL
1/29 Oklahoma City OK
2/22 Las Vegas NV

TRYTAN

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2/22 Hastings MI

SEVENTH SEAL

1/19 Lancaster CA 805-942-4880



WHAT'S ON IT?

"Porno People" by BLAIRING OUT
"J.I.G." by DELIVERANCE
"Battle Of The Flesh" by BLOODGOOD
"Give A Listen" by PARADOX
"Look To The Future" by GUARDIAN
"I.Y.F." by BELIEVER
"Power" by FIRST STRIKE
"Take You High" by CHARIZMA
"There Is One" by THE CRY
"Kingdom Come" by PAUL Q-PEK BAND
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ALBUM REVIEWS

G U A R D I A N

Recommendations this issue go to: King's X; The Awful Truth; Guardian; Believer; Consecrator; Will Landrum; and last, but most certainly not least, Driver. (If an ordering address does not appear in the review, that means this product should be available in Christian bookstores.)

"FIRE & LOVE" - GUARDIAN

What a follow up! Guardian returns to action with two new members and a groovin' new album. In the last issue of HM, the guys in Guardian talked about writing songs like the ones they enjoyed in the 70's and early 80's. Could it be that the guys are playin' music from their hearts? It sounds like it. Couple this with the fact that this style of music is popular right now (Winger, Bonham, Bon Jovi), and you have what could be a hit record.

Jamie Rowe (ex-Tempest) really does a good job delivering the goods with a slight bluesy rasp. He lets it fly during songs like 'Takin' On The World, a snappy, rippin' tune that finds the whole band in high gear. In perfect-for-radio songs like Time Stands Still and Forever And A Day, Jamie's croon could win a million hearts.

The Elefante's production is really an asset when it comes to background vocals, which really adds a touch of class to the record. Some of the "ooohs" sound like they even could've been sampled from Mastedon.

The best tunes of the album fall into the following two categories: The title track and the lead off track, **Power Of Love**, are the two hottest rockers on the album; while the "time" songs--**Time Stands Still**, **Time And Time Again**, and **Forever And A Day**--are the up-tempo melodic hits of the album. They've got great hooks and each member adds his special touch to make these tunes the strongest they can be.

Never Say Goodbye is an interesting tune. It's a ballad with a little Eagles flair to it, thanks to the pedal steel work of Ron Eglit. **The Rain** starts off as a cool blues ballad with a really hip groove, and then goes into rock mode after the first verse.

The lyrics are very upfront: "Oh Lord, I know You've got the answers/ Oh Lord, I know You are the Way/ Oh Lord, I know You are the Answer." (**Fire & Love**)

This album shows an improved Guardian, and is a swell way to start off the new year!

--Spiny Norman



THE AWFUL TRUTH

This is the band on Metal Blade Records you've been hearing about in past King's X interviews (Issue #25). Two of these three guys, Monty Colvin and Alan Doss, went on to form The Galactic Cowboys. Before that, The Awful Truth released a demo that Metal Blade Records heard and wanted to record, even though the band broke up. As might be expected, these Houston, Texas residents bear a strong resemblance to King's X. Sam Taylor's production hand can be heard through the big and beautiful harmonies, and deep, heavy low-end. These guys were part of the infamous Wilde Silas Musicworks company--that troupe of musicians that you can read about in this current issue's interview with King's X.

Anyway, this album smokes! It's got tons of heavy and intricate playing that's as heavy and tight as Metallica or Megadeth.

Songs like **Circle** change times faster than a watch repairman in Switzerland, switching from breakneck jamming to plodding crunch chords to a hooky groove--and back again.

Their slower tunes, like **I Should Have Known** and **Mary**, have a haunting feel that caters

to the questions the songs pose to the listeners. **Mary** takes a swipe at the false worship of Mary. "Can you hear me Mary, mother of God?/ Can you understand these words?/ It's so hard for me to figure why/ I should ask these things of you...Mary, can you hear me when I pray?...is there power in your name?"

Ghost Of Heaven and **No Good Reason** have these huge, deep grooves that are as infectious as any old R&B band from Motown. **Ghost Of Heaven** has some upfront lyrics for those willing to hear (there is no lyric sheet provided): "...let me hear Your voice today/ Ghost of Heaven, hear my plea/ Holy Voice, won't You speak to me?"

Higher is another tune that speaks to a higher level than the boy/girl relationships or partying. They seem to communicate the despair of fallen man. "Your eyes stare back down at me/ how can a man made of dust become clean? Higher, higher...never closer...just can't reach You!"

Like King's X, this is a musician's band. Some of the riffs played are so well performed and creative that they'll tend to go over the head of many.

--Spiny Norman

"FAITH HOPE LOVE BY KING'S X"
- KING'S X

This third outing from this great band starts off with a moving rocker called **We Are Finding Who We Are**, which finds this trio in full harmony swing. A 4 minute, 30 second song, it seems to end too quickly, leaving the listener wanting more, and then the wonderfully melodic single, **It's Love**, steals my attention for another 4:34. Guitarist Ty Tabor handles the lead vocals for this song, which has the most beautiful, swirling harmonies yet to come from this band. The underlying groove is meaty and catchy, while Ty's screaming guitar leads lay a nice texture on top. If this song is anything, it's full sounding--yet it's not over crowded.

King's X always includes at least one "obligatory ballad," but it's never predictable and formulaic. **I'll Never Get Tired Of You** doesn't break the fine tradition set by **Goldilox** and **Summerland**, but it is very different than those two. Another ballad, **Everywhere I Go**, sounds like both of those songs put together.

Most of the songs here fall under the "unusual" category: **Talk To You**, with an almost industrial, strange vocal delivery by bassist Doug Pinnick; **Six Broken Soldiers**, which drummer Jerry Gaskil sings lead vocals for (what a range!); both it and **Mr. Wilson** are trippy Sgt. Pepper-ish journeys through eclectic-land that leaves the listener wondering "what's all this then?;" **We Were Born To Be Loved**, with it's "guess when it's really over" never-ending ending; and the all-acoustic **Legal Kill**, which features Arkangel veteran Kemper Crabb on recorder.

Lyricaly, it's a very upfront album. **Legal Kill** tackles abortion with a very personal view into the issue. "I close my eyes so I can't see/ but the picture gets clearer everyday...I have trouble with the persons with the signs/ but I feel the need to make my own." The song poetically ends with just a pre-determined piece of **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**...but I won't spoil the surprise for you.

Everywhere I Go proclaims that, "I read the story that You died/ I turned the page, You were alive/ with hope and love, but mostly faith/ one day I'll see You face to face."

Overall, I'd have to say this album really stinks! Oh! I mean it's brilliant! (I just wanted to see if you were still awake.) Catch this band now, before it's too popular to like 'em.

--Doug Van Pelt

VENGEANCE RISING (Video)

This two-hour collection of live "bootlegged camcorder footage," band profiles, general horsing around, and selected topical documentary clips from television all makes for some enjoyable viewing.

Appropriately subtitled "This is not a low-budget video--this is a no-budget video," the amateur concert footage filmed is the weakest visual and audio aspect of this package. The best parts are the personal and tongue-in-cheek looks at the band members. Where else could you watch Larry Farkas boogie-board in low California surf? I thought the funniest part was watching Roger Martin bicycle with his friend Keith in the hills of L.A. We also see Glen Mancaruso and

Doug Thieme work on cars, as well as taking a tour of Roger Martinez's personal study library.

One of the biggest highlights is seeing the band arrive at C-Stone in a limousine as **Flower Of Power**.

While light years from MTV quality, this is one the Vengeance fan will want to add to the collection. It's funny, informative, evangelistic, and packed with action.

To order, send \$19.95 plus \$3 postage to: Vengeance Video, 8033 Sunset Blvd #441, Hollywood CA 90046.

--Doug Van Pelt

"BEYOND BELIEF VIDEO ALBUM"
- PETRA

Here's a one-hour mini-move about a young man dealing with some of the struggles life has dealt many: a separated father; a relative with cancer; and the standard hassles of being a high school student. Interspersed throughout are six brand new Petra videos.

Shot on film, much of the videos feature gorgeous outdoor footage, especially **I Am On The Rock**. **Seen And Not Heard** includes lots of funny stage antics, including guitarist Bob Hartman playing a plank of wood with "Zion" spray-painted on it, and a vibrato bar attached. The moving ballad, **Love**, is shot with lots of subdued and blue-tinted lighting, achieving a good mixture of visual and audio feeling.

Overall, these are some of the finest videos shot for Christian rock (save Stryper and Amy Grant). The only real problem with this package is that once you've seen a movie, you tend to not want to see it again, which will unfortunately work against the videos themselves.

--Doug Van Pelt

CRYSTAVOX

Crystavox comes at us with edgy guitars, commercial songs, and lots of background vocals. The first time I heard this tape, I thought, "This is a disappointment--another new band that wasn't ready to be signed." Something happens every time I play it though, it keeps getting better and better.

The commercial hooks that I thought had bad guitar tones and predictable choruses are getting drilled into my head, making my body move. It's not easy to write good commercial rock, and these guys have written some--and they can back it up with competent playing. The "dooty-bop" harmonies that fade out at the end of **Turn It Up** show that these guys have their harmonies together and like to have fun.

All The Way still sounds like a cliché-ridden song, complete with a surf tune guitar solo, but the rest of the songs fit right in with the Poison-style of pop pop-metal. Lyricaly, these four Southern California boys play no games with the Gospel, telling it boldly like it is. The album's highlights are the cool 'n' gritty ballad **I Home Again**, and the rockin' **Tough Boys**.

While not the dazzling, blow-you-away debut album that we may have hoped for, this effort shows a promising act on its way. With the touring scheduled to start this month, it should be safe to predict that the best music is yet to come from Crystavox.

--Spiny Norman

"BEYOND BELIEF" - PETRA

Those of us who basically ignore Petra can't afford to any longer. While not a full-fledged metal album by any means, "Beyond Belief" comes closer to it than the band ever has. 50% of the album is accessible to the melodic metal/hard rock audience.

Armed And Dangerous starts off the album with a noisy declaration that Petra cannot be labeled a predictable pop unit any more. It and **I Am On The Rock** are gang-vocal hard-rockin' anthems. **Underground**, a rocker co-written by John Elefante, has the heavy stomp of the Pakaderm sound on it. **Seen And Not Heard** has the album's loudest power chords--making for a nice, crunching anthem. The album has two ballads: **Prayer**, and **Love**. **Prayer** is a bit tiring, but **Love** is a show-stopper packed with all the emotion the subject deserves. It makes listening to the album over again seem like a good idea.

The remaining tunes are pretty standard Petra pop fare. **What's In A Name**, one of the weaker musical cuts, takes a cool look at the man of Jesus, kinda similar to Larry Norman's **The Outlaw** and Holy Soldier's **Stranger**.

Overall, Petra hasn't changed its identity, but they've made enough improvements to warrant me giving some of these tunes a repeat listen.

--Doug Van Pelt

"CARNIVAL WORLD"
- SERAIAH

The lead off track, while aggressive and guitar driven, still comes off with an amateurish, underground feel. The guitar tones and the song itself doesn't grab ya. **Hear Their Cry** sounds like it would be a killer song live, but it doesn't translate here very well. If the guitars were turned way up in the mix, **The Nature Of Things** might blow me away. It's a way-cool tune, reminiscent of Skid Row. This song shows the talent that won them the New Band Showcase at Metalfest '89, and won the hearts of their fans.

No More Tears To Cry is another song with tons of potential, yet isn't "complete." The guitar solo is decent and the melody line of the chorus is good, but it's not capitalized upon. The guitars finally seem to come alive in the single **Rise Up**. Those of you who hear the cassette may notice that side two seems to have waken up from the slumber of side one. All the instruments seem to breathe a little more, creating a greater separation and the ability to crank it up a little higher.

You can tell that these boys have listened to Led-Zeppelin before, as guitarist Quinton Gibson breaks out the mandolin for a couple of songs. One, **Let Him Take Control**, is centered around this old acoustic instrument, while in the other, **You Know**, it's used to spice up the fiery electric leads. The huge background vocals in **Let Him Take Control** bring the song home in hearty fashion. **Fallen Heart**, a funky metal number, closes the album off with a bit of competent thrash drumming by Kyle Dietz.

While "Carnival World" is a less-than-dazzling debut from Seraiah, it does leave us with great hope for the future of this band. They've got style and chops. Lookin' forward to

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the next one, guys!

--Spiny Norman

DRIVER (Demo)

This tape smokes! It is so far superior to practically every Christian metal release (barring only the classics) production-wise that it's not even funny. Everything about this demo shreds: the band, the vocals, the songs...this is undoubtedly the best demo ever! Pretty hefty words for a worthy custom project, I know!

Warrior starts this 5-song tape off with typical Christian metal soldier imagery: "I'm a soldier under His command." **Fly Away** and **Heart's On Fire** are two mega commercial hits with choruses of big-but-not-giant BGV's. The show-stopper of the tape is **Only Love Can Save Me Now**, a passionate ripper that shows why Joshua shouted "Hallelujah!" when he joined that band a few years ago (and shows why he probably cried when he left). The song is structured eloquently, with fabulous picking by shred-monger Roy Z, and choice layers of keyboard swells by guest Greg Shultz.

A friend who saw these guys live compare the band to Rising Force, of which I will have to agree. Roy Z is in a league with Yngwie. I've yet to hear him solo for 20 minutes, but he does make his guitar sing.

The last song, **I Believe In Love**, is a moving ballad about fantasizing about a woman on the silver screen. Maybe Rob Rock was once in love with Marilyn Monroe?!

Brilliant tape. The only drawback for me is that it doesn't sound as good as the original version, which was manufactured for shopping to labels. This one seemed to take a lot of the high end out. For those keeping up with Rob's music, this material is heavier than Joshua, and much more "together" than the first Angelica album. This band is destined to be signed soon--or there is no justice in the recording industry. To order, send \$6 (plus \$2 postage) to: Worldwide Records, PO Box 406, Somersville CT 06072.

--Doug Van Pelt

"A SAVED MAN IN THE JUNGLE" - SFC

You may have heard the big hype about this album--that it's "the first real Christian rap album." I would agree if it weren't at the expense of PID's hot "Back To Back" album. Anyway, there's jillions of samples and street-wise words from this legit rap artist. Check out the title track, the groovin' sounds of **The Bomb**, and **Idiot Box**.

Christian rappers can be proud--Oh, I mean pleased--with SFC and these 20 blistering tracks.

--Doug Van Pelt

"FORTRESS" - MATTHEW WARD

The fourth solo release by one of the best vocal talents today is a mix of pop, rock, and praise. Rockers who found Matthew's "Fade To White" album a little mellow will be encouraged to know that a tougher edge rears its head often on "Fortress."

The drummer for Bad English, believer Deen Castronovo, plays drums on all tracks. Sample a demo of this one at the store

before you buy, to see if it's your thing. As for me and my house, we give it thumbs up!

--I.B. Willis

"SOUVENIRS" - WHITEHEART

Okay, I know Whiteheart isn't exactly a metal band, but the scorching tunes these boys have been cranking out over the past four years anchor them firmly in the progressive rock category. Sparrow's compiled a sampling from their past three projects: five smoking rockers, four of their most soulful MOR tunes, and a Christmas song, to boot. Nothing new here, but it's a nice package for new fans (or a friend).

--Lynn Miller

"TEAR DOWN THE WALLS" - ASLAN

This competent band seems to have graduated from the Van Halen school of hard rock. **Old Man Goin' Down** starts off this 6-song tape with a big rock beat and some feisty Van Halen-ish hammer-ons. The band has attitude and skill--a deadly combination.

The slower tunes, like **Lost In The City**, retain a sassy R&B feel like Skid Row or Aerosmith. This band has shown very impressive growth since its past demo efforts. **Take Me Back** has a good crunch back beat and a growly Glenn Kaiser-type vocal deliver. Lyrically it talks about the goodness of God, which "nothing else could compare." **Break Away** seems kind of adolescent in its chord and melody structure, but the strength of the other tunes carry its dead weight.

For ordering info, write: Rt. 2, Box 240, Clinton KY 42031.

--Doug Van Pelt

"SAVE THE ROACHES" - BROWN PEACE

Eee-gads! Here's a 10-foot underground recording of post-punk, straight-ahead noise that tackles the subject of roaches! If nothing else, a novelty act. Hopefully vocalist Josh Cadieux will learn how to play the harmonica before they attempt to record again on their jambox. Hottest groove is found in **Styro-Foam**. What's scary is this music could've found a following in the 60's.

For ordering info, write: Aaugh! Records, 920 W Wilson #618, Chicago IL 60640.

--Doug Van Pelt

"SLAVES" - FINAL AXE

Here's a four-song cassette EP of new material from Keith Miles (ex-Holy Danger) and Co. Unlike "Beyond Hell's Gate," this material seems a little more thought-out and musical. **Heads Will Roll** and **Burn In Hell**, the two fastest tunes on the tape, are the two highlights. The other two songs are more on the slow and heavy side. Not for the commercial/melodic metal-minded listener, this stuff is thick, rough, and meaty.

Some listeners may not like the following line in **Burn In Hell**: "No tears are cried for you/ I couldn't give a damn/ 'cause your the one who knew/ our God's chosen lamb...before the throne there's no more time for you..." It's

basically pure judgment for those who have denied the love of God. "I hope these words of pain echo in your ears."

To order, send \$5 to: Final Axe, PO Box 520, Mira Loma CA 91752-0520.

--Doug Van Pelt

"SEIZE THE MOMENT" - BRIAN MADDOX

"Opportunity is the mother of expression/ insecurity puts conviction to the test..." Thus begins this 6-song tape of guitar-oriented commercial pop rock. Fans of D&K and Prodigal should dig this creative and fresh music.

To order, send \$7 to: Crazy Cow Productions, PO Box 958, Annandale VA 22003.

--Doug Van Pelt

"BURIED ALIVE" - THE HATED

Here's a collection of heavy thrash tunes that sound like they were recorded live. The production is very bad, but the songs are average. They thrash away with some real driving rhythms, especially in the song **Porno**, but nothing jumps out as being real intense or new.

For ordering info, write: PO Box 727, Lynden WA 98264.

--Doug Van Pelt

SEVEN (Demo)

Here's some pretty strong material in the "Judas Priest meets Anthrax" vein. The sound quality is very poor, compared to something you'd hear on a major release, but it showcases the band well--the way a pre-production demo does. Some of the rough edges here are the vocals. They even crack at one point in the song **Last Train Out**. The guitars sound pretty good throughout.

Overall, it's not a bad recording, it's just not something I can enjoy because of its bad sonics. For ordering info, write: PO Box 6128, Bluefield WV 24701.

--Doug Van Pelt

"GRACE" - GIDEON'S ARMY

This hard rock band from the Pacific Northwest returns with a good compact disc release on Pan-Trax Records (the same label for Ruscha and Lex Rex) that's head and shoulders over their last release--"Warriors Of Love."

Darin Warren's guitar playing is impressive, ranging from blazing hammer-ons to clean, soaring screams. Most of the tunes here fit somewhere between Petra and Whiteheart. The songs are good, but lack the commercial simplicity and bit hooks of a Jefferson Starship or the two fore-mentioned bands. While the band does what they do well, and I'm sure they do a great job ministering in prisons, I don't think they'll win a big audience of rockers with this mixture of pop and rock.

--Doug Van Pelt

"END OF THE AGE--THE BEST OF BRIDE"

This collection of "greatest hits" from Bride comes at a time that marks an end of an age for the band's music, while showing a glimpse of

the new age (oops, did I say that?) that they are entering into. The song **Everybody Knows My Name** shows off the blues sound that the band is currently doing.

The other selections were supposedly chosen due to letters the band has received from fans. While a novel idea, I question the logic here. Some of these songs only a fan could love, such as **Forever In Darkness** and **Evil That Men Do**. The rest of the tunes rock, but where's **Metal Might**, **Live To Die**, and **Fool Me Once**?

This is probably Bride's best album, due to all the cool tunes included, but hey, it could've shredded.

--Spiny Norman

"CIRCLE SLIDE" - THE CHOIR

The Choir's new album, the band's sixth, is a consistently moody collection of tunes somewhere in between side two of "Wide-Eyed Wonder" and U2's "The Unforgettable Fire" (minus **Pride**). I still think the band's best material lies on "Shades Of Grey" and "Chase The Kangaroo."

--Doug Van Pelt

HOZANA (Demo)

These "good bad boyz" from L.A. have unleashed a nice two-song demo showcasing their catchy blend of commercial metal. It's in the bubble-gum vein of **Elektrik**, but heavier. Producer George Ochoa did a good job of making sure there was enough distortion and snapping drums to give it an edge.

Both of these songs are good. Vocalist **Dana Aaron** and guitarists **Ray Vidal** and **Don Weibel** do a good job with the BGV's. I think these guys might be ready for some attention. I hope they have more material like this.

For ordering info, write: 17830 Sherman Way #269, Reseda CA 91335.

--Doug Van Pelt

"RIGHTEOUS DEMENTIA" - SPYKE LAARD

Here's a collection of funny parodies of Christian songs "Dr. Demento-style," like **Bartley's 6** (**One Bad Pig's Isaiah Six**), an acoustic version of **Smash The Guitar, Knock Him Down** (MW Smith's **Rocketown**); **I'm Not Talking About The Pigeons** (The Altar Boy's **I'm Not Talking 'Bout Religion**); and **I Cover Them, They Cover Me** (Steve Camp's **He Covers Me**). For a laugh and a free copy (because, due to obvious copyright reasons, he can't sell it), write to: Dave Steiner, 2272 Campus Dr, St. Charles MO 63301.

--Doug Van Pelt

CONSECRATOR (Demo)

Out of Dallas comes some cool, thumpin' thrash. The production's a little better than some underground speed metal that comes across my desk. The rhythm section, consisting of guitarists James Chavez and Steve Tidwell, bassist Rob Ojeola, and drummer Ashley Lawhon, hammer down a thick, full-sounding low end. The vocals of Glenn Johnson are pretty accessible--a big plus for this band.

The Messiah Calls is a heavy high-light. These guys are one of the best unsigned thrash bands. Given a good producer, who will really work with the band, and you could have another killer band here.

For ordering info, write: James Chavez, 2114 Yale, Wichita Falls TX 76301.

--Doug Van Pelt

"HE SET THE CAPTIVES FREE" - FINAL PROPHECY

Besides using copyrighted material from Heaven's Metal without permission, these guys are alright. Actually, this is one intense custom thrash tape. In all four songs, this trio holds their sound together very tightly, which can be heard most clearly in the instrumental **M.D.O.D.**, and lead guitarist Eric Hoffman even handles the lead vocals on the other three songs...at this speed, quite an accomplishment. Producer Marc Pomeroy did a swell job in pushing the guitar crunch levels up high, without sounding unbalanced. The vocals are punchin' too.

Lyricaly the band is hardcore: "No one is righteous/ no, not even one/ But we can become so/ through faith in the Son." (from the title track)

"Now this life is over/ and before You I stand/ Forever in the presence of glory and the Lamb." (from **Where Pain Never Dwells**)

To order, send \$6 (\$7 foreign) in U.S. currency only--make checks to Final Prophecy, c/o Eric Hoffman, 6664 149th Pl, Palm Beach Gardens FL 33418.

--Doug Van Pelt

"BLESSED DEATH" - MORTAL ENEMY

I can't believe the number of decent underground thrash groups these days. Some of these bands are doing their homework. **Mortal Enemy** is one such band. From the gang BGV's (not BVD underwear, but BackGround Vocals) to the tight, chopping rhythms, you can tell this band has fun playing. This four-song tape has lots of time changes and melodic interludes, which show the talent and diversity of the band. The guitar tones on some of the leads sound a bit irritating, and the overall production holds the sound from really cranking...yet the songs hold their own.

For ordering info, write: c/o Adam Young, 601 Titan Dr, Fullerton CA 92631.

--Doug Van Pelt

METANOIA (Demo)

If Lemmy of **Motorhead** had a son who was in high school and played in a thrash band, this is what it may have sounded like. The vocals are very...should I say, rough. The band is fairly tight and has written some pretty cool tunes, such as **Kill Or Be Killed**, but overall this tape doesn't deliver the intensity that a speed metal band needs to capture an audience.

For ordering info, write: 12 Karangi St, Rasmussen 4815 Tville, Australia.

--Doug Van Pelt

CROSSOVER (Demo)

Here's a 5-song custom tape from a six-piece band. The music is a high-energy blend of hard rock, metal, and sometimes thrash. The vocals are high-pitched, the keyboards play a major role, the guitars fly, and the drums thrash out a rapid-fire snare pounding--all in one song, **Seeing Is Believing**.

A keyboardist must've mixed the tape, because the keys sometimes have more prominence than the guitar, which keeps the music here from really taking off. A song like **Don't Have To Run** shows the strong songwriting potential of this band. Hottest tunes are **Downfall**, and **Why--** showing the band's diversity and rough edge.

While this tape isn't a very well-produced effort, a glimpse of the band's promising future is evident. I'm very much looking forward to more from these guys. To order, send \$6.50 to: 448 Grotto Ave, Pawtucket RI 02860. (Make checks payable to Lillian Travis)

--Doug Van Pelt

"RAW MEAT" - RED INK

The completed package of the "Raw Meat" demo has a nice full color glossy cover and somewhat decent of a production sound.

Some of the guitar leads sound very metal, like in **The World After**, yet the vocals sound more hardcore punk. **Repent Or Else** and **Baby Killer** are the highlights, because Chaz shouts more than using his Roger Martinez/ "I'm-A-Monster" growly vocals--ugh! These two tunes also have the coolest grooves. **Raw Meat** has a good little groove itself too, very much like **Oh No, Not Again** by **The Lead**. To order, send \$6 (plus \$1 postage--Texas residents add 8% sales tax) to: 3523 El James, Spring TX 77388.

--Doug Van Pelt

"HIGHEST POWER" - WILL LANDRUM

This tape sat on my shelf for a while. I knew it was a guitar instrumental tape, but, by looking at the generic cover, I wasn't expecting much. Wasn't I surprised! This guy really cooks! I'd like to hear this on cd--and how many custom projects do I say that about?

Coming in at just under 40 minutes, this collection features songs that go somewhere. They're not just jam sessions. He sounds kinda like **Tony MacAlpine**--lots of runs and scales, yet still very melodic. I would categorize this guy as a little on the technical end of the performance-to-emotion spectrum. It's neat to look at the song titles and try to figure out what Will was thinking when he wrote 'em. For example: **Happy Are Those, You're Welcome**, and **Shining Hope**.

For those of you who were turned upside-down by Jeff Scheetz's "Woodpecker Stomp" and haven't known where to look for more brilliant playing...look right here at Will Landrum. The dude's hot! For ordering info, write: 2500 N Van Dorn St #1511, Alexandria VA 22302.

--Doug Van Pelt

IONA

This alternative album on **Forefront** (what!?) is a very mellow and tasty collection of jazz, new age, and celtic sounds that are as fresh as a trip through the clouds. If the best of any of

those categories pique your interest, by all means check out this creative release. Very cool stuff.

--Doug Van Pelt

THEE IMAGE (Demo)

I'm shocked. These guys actually sent Heaven's Metal a tape to review! Did you realize what you were getting yourselves into? Ha! Just kidding. This eight-song masterpiece deserves attention. It's a non-metal group from Spokane, Washington that really knows how to minister. This project is soaked with feeling and dedication, exalting Jesus big-time! Every aspect of T.I.'s music displays maturity and creative ability.

Lead singer Johnny Ramirez is an aural spittin' image of Billy Ocean and Sergio Mendez, performing graceful, touching testimonies, etc. over various musical structures from mellow to upbeat. If you enjoy either of the two artists listed above, or even Michael McDonald or The Doobies, you'll like Thee Image. Production--outstanding.

To order, send \$10 to: S. 1821 Lake Road, Spokane WA 99212.

--John Wilson

TRIAL BY FIRE (Demo)

With this 1990 ten-song private release, Trial By Fire signifies that there is talent and sound doctrine in Babylon, New York. Musically, TBF sounds somewhat like Heart, generally centering around the power-pop vein. Actual song performance deserves a nod for collaboration--and even for complexity on occasions.

Initially it appears that rock styling is rather new to vocalist Colette Hansen (undeniable Ann Wilson influence), but as the project progresses, the match works more and more effectively--kinda grows on you. Extraordinary cuts are **Sandcastle**, a soft ballad about childhood, and a rough, bluesy number called **Eternity**.

TBF shows promise and musicality, with some satisfactory production. Available through Spring Arbor or from the band. For info, write: 250 Piox St, Coplague NY 11726.

--John Wilson

QODESH (Demo)

Three intriguing tunes constitute this 1990 demo from Qodesh, a three-piece progressive rock (sans keyboards) act from Indiana. Especially interesting are the very articulate guitar parts--seemingly influenced by David Zaffiro and maybe Darrell Mansfield's guitarist, Eric Turner. Stylistically the music falls between Queensryche's non-aggressive end and 70's blues-rock, but very creative.

Only the second song has vocals ("justified by Jesus' blood," etc...), handled by artsy After The Fall vocalist Barry Nicholson, who does the job, but is no Rey Parra. Mediocre production. For ordering info, write: 1700 Schenk Rd, Evansville IN 47720.

--John Wilson

AMETHYST (Demo)

This eight-song tape features some

good playing, especially the guitar playing of guest musician Bart Stevens, but rhythm guitarist Mark Fekete's vocals sound strained. With a little vocal coaching and production help, this band could blow down some doors. Right now they're doin' okay.

The songs are good melodic numbers with lots of punch. Highlights include **Forever** and **Joyful Noize**. Forever takes a double guitar trot a la Iron Maiden. One of the only drawbacks to the songwriting is that each song is so similar to each other. They're predictable: starting off mellow and melodic, with guitar picking, and then they dive into hard and fast rockin'. This repetition can make the band a parody of themselves if they don't throw in more changes.

Good sonics, good tunes, good band...will get better with time. For ordering info, write: Mark Fekete, E 12112 Boone Ave, Spokane WA 99206-6703.

--Doug Van Pelt

"THE RIVER" - ALLIES

I was really hopin' that The Allies would've gotten so much positive feedback on its Zeppelin-type material from its last album (like **Old Man Down** and **Christian Man**), that it would've released an album full of blistering blues hard, hard rock. Well, I guess the guys need to support their families, and rad Christian rock wouldn't do it for 'em. This album is another smorgasbord of styles, ranging from adult light rock to old Delta blues, to mega-world music pop, to reggae, to Motown soulful blues, to blues rock.

Hot picks: **Burden Down**; **Take Me To The River** (a good ole soulful-blues ditty that could shame The Blues Brothers); **Carried Away** (which makes reference to Steve Camp's infamous use of the four-letter "S-word" in CCM--bull caca); **Mule-Headed Man** (with a bold and brazen horn section); and the best and most metallic of the lot--**Rock And Roll Angel** (a heavy 'n' hard blues rocker that could shame even the Aerosmith boyz).

--Doug Van Pelt

The Mystery Band

(Who didn't include any name or address)

Whoever this band is (write in and tell us), they've recorded on hot tune called **Look Out! (The Devil's Gonna Getcha)**. It's a real in-your-face bluesy tune, like Aerosmith's **Walk This Way** or Uncle Salty. **Cut Loose**, another groovin' tune, epitomizes mid-70's hard rock. **I Can't Live Without You** sounds like Boston meets Sweet or Argent...you know, real commercial without the Power-Soak sound and flawless production of Tom Schultz. If I could name this band, I'd call them Diverse...I mean, they even do a country tune! (It's Eagles-like) Their harmonies are as clean as The Beach Boys.

We need to know who this is! (I'll let you know as soon as I find out) Speak up boyz...men!

--Doug Van Pelt

BASIX (Demo)

Here's a collection of halfway decent hard rock tunes with miserable sonic production.

The keys and overall mix made the tunes sound muddy. Given the chance to dominate, the guitars could've saved this tape. **Red-Blood Enemy** rocks...and crashes its instruments at the end. **Don't Worry** has an awful guitar tone, but a great mellow hook.

To order, send \$3 to: PO Box 92, Raphine VA 24472.

--Doug Van Pelt

JOHN COX & THE BALANCE (Demo)

These guys come across as a tight veteran outfit that knows what they're doing. The production is good and clean, and the songs are well-written, especially **Do What God Says**, an R&B rocker with all the strength and snap of Aerosmith or The Allies. Excellent tune about Adam and Eve and obeying the Lord. The only other song, **Love Your Ways**, is a ballad that shows the lighter side of the band. Both of these songs are radio quality.

For ordering info, write: PO Box 560622, The Colony TX 75056.

--Doug Van Pelt

SOJOURNER (Demo)

Here's a real tight outfit in the Toto/Idle Cure vein. The production is real clean and the performance is tight. This full-length project could do well on adult contemporary/light rock format radio. One highlight is **Come And Lay Your Burden Down**.

Good job guys! Heavy metal warning: there's no power chords above volume 6 on this release.

For ordering info, write: Life Spring Records, 901 McCall, Conroe TX 77302.

--Doug Van Pelt

"SOON...THE DOORS WILL OPEN" - DAMASCUS

These early-Yes clones are back with another art rock release of nine tunes. Lots of classical sounds and riffs are used here (check out the **Gloria En Excelsis Deo** intro to **An Angel**) to create an ethereal/heady atmosphere. Thomas McKeown uses lots of organ sounds on his keys.

A real surprise on this, I think, the band's 4th release, is that the guys rise up and do an out 'n' out rocker! **Reckless** is performed with an energy that lives up to its title--especially for this band. The intro to **Lead Me On** almost finds these guys in the 90's!

Overall, Damascus shows growth and maturity. This is its best album to date. For ordering info, write: 1112 Cherrywood Dr, Mount Prospect IL 60056.

--Doug Van Pelt

"STAND UP!" - DON G. RILING

Jazzy, upbeat pop rock praise with some exceptional guitar. Light years from metal, but high quality for those interested in this genre. Pro mix and packaging.

For ordering info, write: Messenger International, 1175 Hillside Ave, San Jose CA 95118.

--Doug Van Pelt

"WHO SAID" - X-TERRA

X-Terra presents their latest independent release, a melodic album best described as basic metal along the lines of Messiah Prophet, denoted by lots of sustained chords for most verses, which seem to be written for the casual listener. Fair production leaves guitars buried here and there, but production on drums is practically outstanding.

One cut, **Too Busy**, really impressed me, with a sound similar to **Bad To The Bone** by George Thorogood or especially a song by Vinnie Vincent Invasion called **Back On The Streets**. **Too Busy** is a lamentation from Christ's point of view to a "too busy" believer. Strong R&B focus on this one.

To order, send \$8 to: PO Box 2287, Wilkes-Barre PA 18703.

--John Wilson

MEEPO & THE COAGULATORS - (Demo)

The xeroxed-on-pink cover art is humorous. The production is downright shameful. The music is tough, trashy garage rock. In other words, it rules!!! The flamboyant vocalist ranges in style from the likes of the Altar Boy's Mike Stand to your local radical black pastor--yeah, the one down the street. As a band, M & the C's don't sound like anyone--well, at least no one intending to make a living selling albums. They sound rougher, grittier, better!!

Now, although M & the C's approach is so utterly disgusting, I want to state that their lyrics (which are printed) are doctrinally sometimes comical or sarcastic, and good 'n' confrontational.

One soul-type song, **The Ole Switcheroo**, openly and honestly laments a Christian's motives/lifestyle going bad. The final cut, **I Declare**, features some interesting (and bizarre) effects, especially "demonic messages" of "Let me in!" repeated intermittently. Though muddy-sounding, this cut really frightened me. Really. I love it.

To order, send \$5 to: KIMBRA, PO Box 1752, Aberdeen SD 57402-1752.

--John Wilson

NYEPON - (Demo)

Just when we thought we could sit back and say, "I've heard it all," comes along Nyepon. Nyepon (pronounced ni-pon) seems to come across combining new wave with mild punk. Definitely an interesting combination...

If you're tired of mainstream rock, than this unconventional demo is recommended. For ordering info, write: Mike Berk, 5195 Benton St, Denver CO 80212.

--Joey Knight

"SONGS WE WISH WE COULD DANCE TO" - CHUCKHEADS

Creative. Try mixing early Undercover keyboard-heavy New Wave with acoustic Folk Rock. Crumbacher meets Barngrover/Light?? The song **Datemark 1989**, a talk/sing ditty about this guy's flopped date, was funny! Quirky is the norm for these guys. **Darker Nights**

is a cool song. Not all is fun and games on the tape though, as **God Loves** proves.

To order, send \$2 to: 8142 Susan Ct, Niles IL 60648.

--Doug Van Pelt

SURRENDER - (Demo)

Craig Erickson (Red Sky) lends his axe to this metal project. Kerri Horak's vocals remind me of the first Messiah Prophet album. This here's straight-ahead metal with some good playing (yet not too creative). Most of the riffs seem kind of re-hashed. The Jazz/Jeff Beck influence sounds real nice, though.

For those interested, write: 1445 1st Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids IA 52402.

--Doug Van Pelt

"LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE" - ONE WAY

Let's talk about the future of this commercial rock band from Austin, Texas. With a style reminiscent of Alliance, these guys can write a good tune. Lead vocalist Randy Seale has got a good voice for this style of hard pop rock.

The love song **Prisoner Of Your Heart** casts a mesmerizing feel to the listener with its subtle guitar picking and use of female background vocals. The only problem is its length. It goes on for 6 minutes, reaching for that epic ebb and flow feel, when it should've stopped with the simple ballad. The jam near the end doesn't really happen. **Nothing Left To Save** is an AC ballad about the heartache after losing your virginity before marriage, having nothing left to save (for your future husband/wife).

To order, send \$7 (making checks payable to Chester Crider) to: 10624 Glass Mtn. Tr, Austin TX 78750.

--Doug Van Pelt

"UNIFORM RESULT" - APPIAN WAY

I'm pleased to announce that Christianity finally has a credible counterpart to the Violent Femmes! Those who are familiar with the VF's know about their hair-raising songs about the nature of Christ--thrown in among 8 or 9 songs about depression, sex, or general mistrust. Well, let me tell you, you need to get your hands on this, a thoughtfully-produced June 1990 custom release of four songs: **Drowning**, a 60's-ish sounding tune, sorta VF-ish, but with more focus; **Sin Of The World**, played with guitar distortion(!); **Faith In A Glass**; and **Silver Lining**, a relaxing, but informative piece which features mystical harmony vocals as in the style of Whitecross on **Simple Man** and Simon And Garfunkel on **Scarborough Fair**.

I really can appreciate Appian Way--unafraid to be weird, but never arrogant. Hopefully this collector's item will be followed with bigger releases of this intellectually-oriented quartet.

To order, send \$4 (payable to Jason Bauman) to: Rte 1, Hwy 23, Mineral Point WI 53565.

--John Wilson

HEIRFORCE - (Demo)

Okay people, this is where I break the long string of good reviews (Sorry!). Heirforce's music was just a little too lame for me. Okay, okay, their bio sheet says that their music is "progressive wave" and is aimed at the less commercial Christian underground market... This is understandable, but there just isn't any substance. Like I've said before, this is just my opinion. Kirk out!

To order, send \$8 to: Deep Sky Records, PO Box 3045, Florence AL 35631.

--Joey Knight

"ARMOR OF LIGHT" - EZ AX-S

Anybody need a ministry tape? Counselors and youth pastors arise. Although not heavy metal, this is a blend of synthesizers, drums, and a touch of guitar woven into an evangelistic message. It even has some scripture reading and some exhortations at the end of this 9-song release. Great witnessing tool for that middle-of-the-road person who's into contemporary pop, and who's searching for truth; or some of you metalhead's wives, who (like mine) are into the more mellow side of life. Give these guys a hand for creativity, top-notch production, and lyrical content.

To order, send \$9 to: Rt. 2, Box 319, Martinsville VA 24112.

--Steven "Smash" White

"STICKS & STONES" - 77'S

One of the best bands in Christian music has re-emerged to "perpetrate on their adoring public" a milestone in the history of Christian alternative music. The legendary 77's have released a smooth gathering of collectibles dating back to the early 80's, which they claim "never saw the light of day." After adding that ethereal touch of perfection, as only they can, the end product has resulted in a very commercial album that will please their loyal cult following worldwide. Write us another hit, Bongo!!

--Steven "Smash" White

"MORE MISERABLE THAN YOU'LL EVER BE" --THE 77'S

More tunes that haven't seen the light of day. Even better than "Sticks & Stones." (Available through Spring Arbor)

--Doug Van Pelt

"A GLIMPSE OF DEEP SYMBOLISM" - VAGUE

Here's a creative tape featuring the quirky alternative energy of John Thompson (True Tunes)'s band--Vague. The unpredictableness of the music reminds me of Trio Of One, while the acoustic passion reminds me of a Sam Phillips or Mark Heard. There's some real cool use of the saxophone, as well as female vocal harmonies.

Fans of alternative music aimed at college radio ought to really enjoy this. For ordering info, write: c/o True Tunes Mgmt, PO Box 1362, Wheaton IL 60187.

--Doug Van Pelt

CONCERT REVIEWS

METAL MIDNIGHT IV

Keith Miles' fourth semi-annual all day fest at Fontana High School went off without a hitch last September 27th. With a sparse crowd of about 400, each of the bands put on a good performance. Highlight's of the extravaganza include: the fiery and melodic set by Ohio's **Catalyst**. Lead vocalist/bass player sported the "Kip Winger-Unshaven" look, and pulled off a rather good set that was not too musically different than his look-alike band. Their lead guitarist was good.

A band that has a pretty good following in the underground, **Martyr**, came on and thrashed for a super short set, which included some lackluster tunes. Sometimes they would hit a good groove, but not hold on to it long enough to give the songs a good direction. Some of the guitar rhythms played by Marcus Colon was happenin' at times, and the band was very animated. After their set was cut short due to time constraints on the fest, and after much begging from the audience, the band was allowed to come back on for one more tune. This time everything clicked and the band smoked. I was impressed with this last tune.

Ransom put on a pretty good show, which displayed a lot of the material on its upcoming debut album on Intense. Watching guitarist fly through his leads was entertaining. This guy wails. Vocalist Lisa Faxom did a good job belting out the lyrics, but shone the brightest on one of the ballads, which will be on the album... **Eternal Ryt** came on with a brand new guitarist, who replaced Bobby "Transformer" Smith--which are mighty big shoes to fill. This guy (also named Bobby) did a great job shredding. Like the band's recorded material, the best tunes were the super melodic commercial tunes, like "Say Hello." **Final Axe** put on a memorable show.



Vocalist Keith Miles explained the band's wild visual stage show, "When I was young, I used to get into Kiss...and I know that visual images will remain in your mind for a long time, so it helps make the message hit home a little harder." Included in the show was: a cross with a live model hanging on it; a couple of warriors manhandling a guy in a little red devil suit; a three foot

lighted cross; a sharp sword, which Keith pierced the stage with; and a guillotine, which sliced up a pumpkin (in mock honor of Halloween I'm sure). The band performed some killer tunes, which had the crowd headbanging, and some not so killer tunes, which were helped by the visuals.

The final band for the evening really closed the show on a super good note. Rick, **Seventh Seal's** vocalist, was praying before the show that God would give them words to say, for they had the privilege and responsibility of going on and wrapping up, after all the bands that had worked hard and spoken the Word all that day. I think the band did a good job at just that. They led the audience in worship during "The Ooh Song," and reminded everyone what we were all ultimately there for--Jesus. Musically the band shredded through some of its very powerful tunes, like "Purged." They did a rap/thrash tune that just killed. Guitarist J.R. Montgomery put on a baseball cap and handled the rap vocals for several sections, which were interspersed with shouts of "mosh it up," as the band flew into some hyper-speed thrashin'. The band's stage persona was fabulous. The audience was either laughing at the stage antics, or jamming along to some of the best tunes around. Watching these guys really reminded me of the excitement I feel about rock and roll music. This band is easily one of the two best unsigned bands (that I know about) in the universe. They perform like pros, sound like pros, and have great tunes. Soon they'll have people saying, "Living who?"

Overall, the festival was good. It probably features too many local, underground bands to generate excitement and attendance from around the country (Keith Miles is not a rich man), but fulfills a great need in the needy environment of Fontana, California. One of the best aspects of the fest is that it was videotaped using about three cameras. It will be edited and available for mail order soon.

--Doug Van Pelt

Galactic Cowboys/King's X

This fabulous double-bill toured through Texas recently to packed clubs. The Galactic Cowboys came out and played a strong set with lots of moshing and awesome harmonies. Lead vocalist Ben Huggins played electric and acoustic guitar, harmonica, and leaped around doing windmills like the lead vocalist for Living Colour. He and bassist Monty Colvin were the most animated, running around and making lots of silly faces. At one point late in the set, Ben picked Monty up and spun him around--as Monty played. One of the highlights was the song "We Are Not Ashamed," which ended with the whole band shouting the title. This band is incredible. Their chops are tight and meaty, with lots of crunch. When the band harmonizes, everyone can understand what they're singing. These guys are sure to forge new ground in metal.

King's X came on a good half hour later to an audience that was screaming with anticipation and pressing towards the small stage. Starting with "King," (a King's X tradition) the band was punching the envelope of the known music world with their creative tunes. Ty Tabor's guitar playing was excellent. He would run through a fast, choppy rhythm, and then plant his fingers right into a perfect note, which led to other notes that he also attacked with lots

of speed. The band played several songs from its latest album, including "We Were Born To Be Loved," with its mystery ending. Other songs played were: "We Are Finding Who We Are," "It's Love," "I'll Never Get Tired Of You," "Fine Art Of Friendship," "Moanjam," "Talk To You," "Power Of Love," "Goldilox," "Summerland," "Over My Head," "Everybody Knows A Little Bit Of Something," and "Fall On Me."

"Moanjam" was really cool live, with its frantic and wailing ending. The vocal harmonies actually sounded a bit off during the big single "It's Love" (could it be...something not perfect at a King's X show?). The band came back on for one encore, where they played "Visions," with its Metallica-thick crunch and silent sudden pauses. The only other disappointment of the evening was that it couldn't go on forever. I noticed that "The Burning Down" was on the setlist for the final encore, but knowing that the band threw in "Summerland," which wasn't on the setlist, made up for it.

--Doug Van Pelt

Sacramento

Philadelphia thrashers Sacramento flew all the way to Austin, Texas last October to show the South that speed kills. Houston punks **Red Ink** opened up with a hardcore sounding wall of noise. Most of the words were left up to the imagination, but the urgency and conviction of vocalist Chaz Chadwick was convincing enough. San Antonio's **Paradox** came on next with a medium-length set of loud and brash heavy metal. The guys in the band were pretty happy this night, because they were celebrating a contract signing with Star Song Records. (Their deal involves one cut on an upcoming compilation album, with the label's option to pick up the band for future full-length albums.) Anyway, vocalist Manuel Castillo had some frustrating problems with hearing himself sing in the monitors (the dreaded monitor nightmare of every vocalist!), and guitar shredder Fernando Hernandez had his instruments go out of the main speakers a few times, but he blazed anyway. Some of the new material is of the operatic, heavy progressive mold.

Sacramento came on next, playing fast, loud, and loose. They charged through all the tunes off their "Testimony Of Apocalypse" debut album, which only took about 50 minutes. The crowd screamed for more, only to hear, "Those are all the tunes we have," from the stage. They ended up doing one song twice. The best tunes of the night were "Valley Of Dry Bones" and "Bloodbath." Drummer Paul Graham was playing on a borrowed kit, and turned sideways. This meant for a fun time for Paul, as he improvised fills on this particular kit, which happened to be left-handed. "I'm always used to playing facing the other direction," laughs Paul, "so most of the time I was turned away from the audience looking at the wall."

The rhythm section of bassist Erik Ney, Paul Graham, and guitarists Mike Didonato, Brian Toy did a pretty fair job of nailing down a tight musical chase, but couldn't actually match the intensity of the album, nor their secular speed counterparts. The audience got a good dose of thrash, but it wasn't warp speed. What was comical at times was the way vocalist Mike Torone would growl in every song, which came



across as repetitive, as repetitive, as... He would bend over and grunt "wu-aaaaaaargh!"

The band stopped between songs several times to explain the meaning of the lyrics and to exhort the audience to know Jesus personally. Several of the members gave their testimony, which went over well. I think a lot of the thrashers went away thinking, "Okay, I've seen them now. We've had Vengeance, Deliverance, Sacrament...I need to see The Crucified and Believer now."

--Doug Van Pelt

Vengeance Rising

L.A.'s Vengeance Rising pulled into Austin, Texas as their last date before heading home to recuperate from its recent nationwide tour. The band made it okay...but the van and trailer with all their equipment and merchandise was still on its way from Beaumont, Texas. So, due to the graciousness of the opening band--Dallas's *Angelix*, and the flexibility of these thrash veterans, the show went on.

Angelix blew a lot of people's doors with its tight and aggressive set. Apparently, the band had a very good night, because the audience was really buzzing with enthusiasm. (Your roving reporter missed the set, due to his attendance at a mega-rad spiritual warfare conference taught by Francis Frangipane.)

Vengeance Rising came on and shredded through a slew of its material in no time flat. Even the preaching by Roger Martinez was fast (which is really nothing new--ha!). Two new songs were played, one of which--"Wailing," was extremely tight. The experience of being on the road for the last nine weeks really whipped these boy's hair...I mean chops, into shape. Roger Martin had an exceptional night on the bass guitar, showing the skill that his instructional video taught. Larry Farkas, as usual, was a comic on stage, making numerous silly and disgusting faces--much to the crowd's delight.

The set was extremely short, for them, but extremely well done, nonetheless. If you haven't seen these guys yet, you're really missing out.

--Doug Van Pelt

Whitecross

It blew guitarist Rex Carroll and vocalist Scott Wenzel away, not to mention others who were equally as amazed: Way up in the northwest section of Vermont, the second least populated state in the nation (500,000 total), close to 400 people showed up to see *Crossover* and *Whitecross* on a cold November day.

Before the concert, Rex and Scott made an appearance at the local Christian bookstore. We expected a few people to show up, but when we arrived, the place was packed wall-to-wall. Vermonters and others from the surrounding states were itching to see what Vermont had never seen before--a Christian metal band. On the way back to the venue, the guys said that they rarely get a refreshing reception like that.

Crossover, a hot new six-piece band from Rhode Island, got the place rocking with a blend of pop metal melodies and straight-ahead power. Their music, along with their no-compromise stand for Jesus and their "give all the glory to God" attitude and testimony caught the attention of Scott and Rex, who said that *Crossover* is their type of band, and that this is one of the gems that doesn't come along too often.

The crowd was in a frenzy by the time *Whitecross* appeared, and the front of the auditorium was packed with screaming metalheads (not a nice place for your grandmother to be). "Attention Please" was the start of a fantastic show. Although I've seen *Whitecross* 6 or 7 times before, I was psyched to see all these people who were seeing them for the first time! The guys did an extended 135-minute set, with enough highlights to impress even the skeptic.

Bassist Rick Armstrong and Rex flew through a classical counterpoint duet (look for this on the new album), and Rex, looking Stevie Ray Vaughn-esque in his "blues hat," lay down his characteristic blues grooves interspersed with flashes of 100 miles per hour arpeggios. Frank Liva's (ex-Fierce Heart) drumming tightness showed why he was picked to pound the skins for the "Triumphant Return" album. As if that weren't enough, Rick and Frank traded places during "I Believe," with Rick playing drums and Frank slapping the bass. Frank then took the spotlight by performing a slap-bass funk solo before returning to his place behind the drums, only to perform a drum solo later on in the set. The crowd immensely appreciated the versatility of these musicians. The night ended with dozens of people coming forward after Scott's hard-hitting sermon. It was a night that the people in little Vermont will never forget.

--Marc Carpenter

One Bad Pig

The Pig was in Corpus Christi for the first time at Bayfest '90 on September 29th. Bayfest is a fund-raiser for non-profit organizations. The Bayfest block party includes arts and crafts booths, and continuous live entertainment. The free, open-air type concert provided an unusual, but somewhat large crowd for the Pig to play/minister to.

The Pig jumped into "See Me Sweat" to start the hyperspeed set. After belting out the tunes "Hey Punk" and "Altar Ego," Carey began to pour out the passion with "Red River."

One of the most moving pieces I've ever seen was "When Your Love Died." With

sweat streaming down his face, Carey jumped into the crowd to sing one-on-one with the people.

Before they could smash the guitar, some guy dressed up in a Ninja Turtle suit jumped on stage for an impromptu slug fest with Carey (Remember, we wrestle not against flesh and blood, or turtle shell!). What made the concert a success were the youth groups from Houston and McAllen who were able to attend.

One Bad Pig followed up with another set at the local rock and roll club Zero's. After the intense but fun set, the Pig had everyone on their feet screaming for more. The owner even asked when they could come back.

--Mike Boyd

Sanctified Noise played Corpus September 30th at Zero's. These guys definitely have the punk crown. Fronted by Steve Graybosch, with a double red mohawk, the band is as tight as any I've seen. Opening with an extended version of "Bimind," they tore non-stop until all their material on "Oops, I Swallowed My Tongue" was played. They threw in some new tunes, and even a...ahem, disco tune?! This animated group is definitely one to catch live.

--Mike Boyd

Torn Flesh

I had heard of them before, but never knew how intense their music and ministry was. It helped me and my non-Christian friends as well. We all have seen Metallica and Slayer in concert, but *Torn Flesh* blows them away (Ed--Come on!), along with everyone's ears.

With each song I didn't know what to expect next. Great stage show. The lead singer was just too wild! The drummer did an amazing solo using sticks, fists, and even his head. The guitars were continuously grinding like chain-saws non-stop. During a song called "World Pollution," the lead singer came out with a long trench coat and a gas mask. It was just freaking us all out. Moshers in front of the stage were all over the floors. The bass player even threw down his guitar and jumped out into the pile of people going berserk.

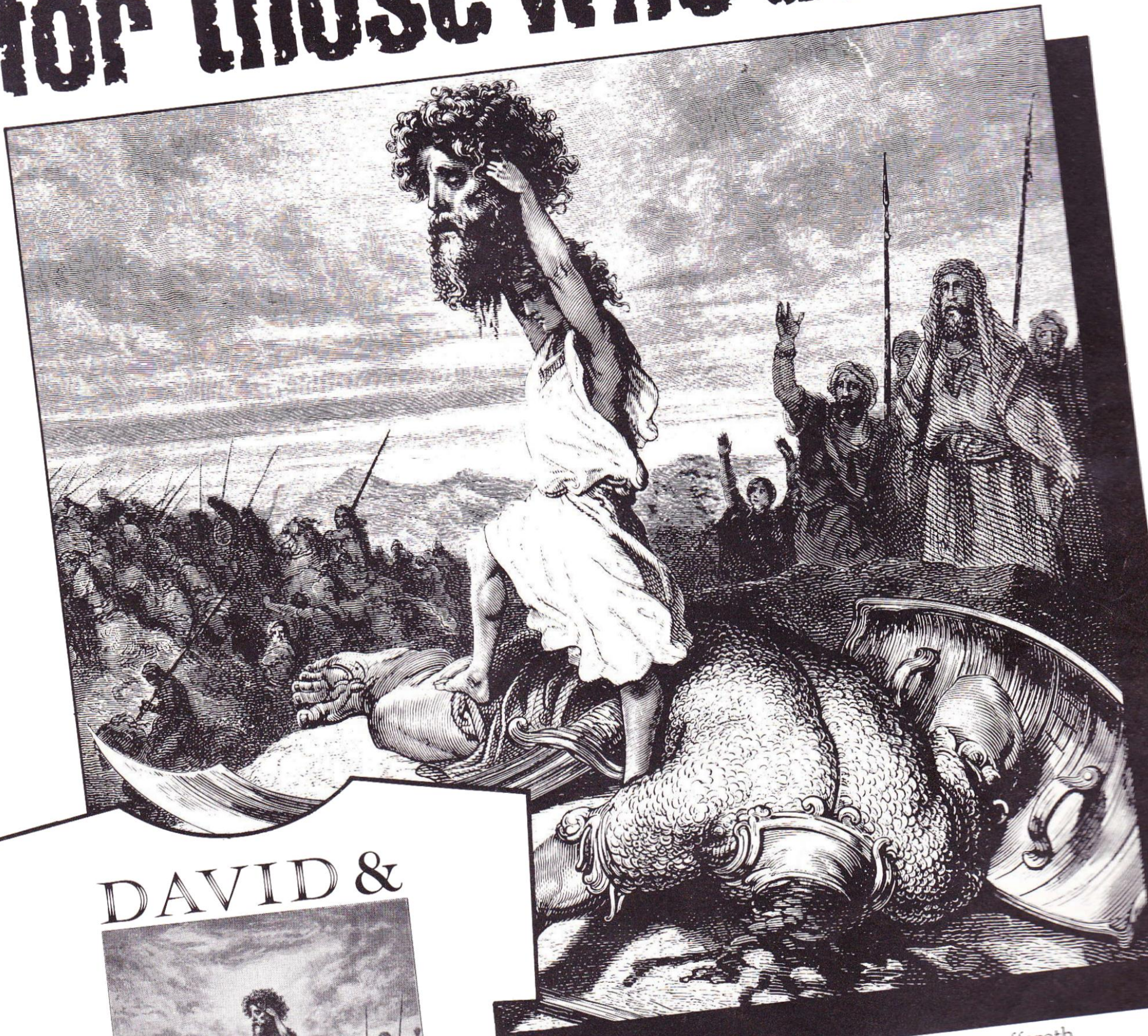
Torn Flesh presented the Gospel in a unique way. Everyone left the concert knowing that there is a Heaven, there is a Hell, and a challenge was given to end the fight and stand for God or face the consequences. A few skinheads were there and just as shocked as I was. Christianity is fun and exciting, and worth screaming about.

They played two brand new songs, one called "Skeletons In The Closet." The lead singer held up a large skeleton and, by the end of the song, it was totally demolished. Jesus can forgive our past sins and destroy those skeletons in the closet. Action, action, action. Great ideas and stage presence. Sliding across the stage on their knees in a song called "No Surfin' In Hell," the lead singer threw himself on the floor and then the bass player surfed on his back while ripping out bass chords. Looked like pain to me, but I guess all was well. It was definitely by far an attention getter, and it got to the heart of the matter.

Now that I know there are great Christian bands like this, who needs Slayer, or Metallica, when there is *Torn Flesh*? Mosh it up dudes.

--Chris Zigler

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Fear. We've all felt it: our throat becomes instantly dry, adrenalin is pumped through our body, our stomach tightens up, and our heart starts pounding so loudly that we think the whole world can hear it; then we know we're afraid. That's how our body responds to fear. Sometimes it's a very painful experience. Some people have even had heart attacks due to fear. (Luke 21:26)

I believe even Jesus faced fear. In the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of His arrest, He said to His disciples, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." (Matthew 26:38) He sweat blood from His forehead that night, a medical phenomenon associated with high stress. He knew He would have to experience incredibly great pain and that He, Who had no sin, would become sin and thus cause His loving Father to turn His face away from Him. That's enough to strike fear in anyone, knowing that they would die, and in the process have their loving father turn his back on them...

The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus has been tempted in every way, (Hebrews 4:15) which would include the emotion and temptation to be ruled by fear, yet He didn't sin. Jesus overcame His fear in the Garden that night by submitting to His Father's will. He expressed what He would like to happen ("may this cup be taken from me"), but He also acknowledged that His Father's desires held a higher priority than His own ("yet not My will, but Thy will be done"). His love for His Father was more

important than even His own life. "Perfect love casts out all fear" (1 John 4:18), and Jesus' love for His Father certainly cast away the fear that was tempting Him.

In the same way, we can overcome all of our fears. We must love, and love demands that we prioritize what is most important. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. I will show you Whom you should fear: Fear Him Who, after killing the body, has power to throw you into Hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him." (Luke 12:4-5) If you fear God, and love Him "with all of your heart and all of your soul and all of your mind" (Matthew 22:37), then you have correctly prioritized Who and what is most important, and you have nothing else to fear. If demons, spirits, or even Satan himself comes against you, you have Someone on your side that strikes fear, total terror, into the hearts of His enemies.

God watches out for His children. "Not one sparrow will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father, and even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:29-30) God is in control. He is on the throne. Nothing can happen to us without Him knowing about it. Even if we were to die, we would be present with the Lord (Philippians 1:23), for "precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." (Psalm 116:15) So, if death holds no power over us, we can truly be bold, courageous, and victorious overcom-

ers. The book of Revelation talks about believers who overcame the devil. They did this "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." (Revelation 12:11)

When people accept the sacrificial blood of Christ as payment for their own sins; and they openly talk about it; and they aren't afraid of dying; they are "overcomers." Those are people that Satan is probably terrified of! Ultimately he is overcome by them, so that fearless saint is someone to be feared by spirits, demons, and the devil--because that saint has the authority of Almighty God.

Therefore, do not let fear rule you, or even bother you. "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption as sons." (Romans 8:15) "God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7)

One of the U.S. presidents once said, "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself." I would like to change that to: "We have nothing to fear, but God Himself." Proverbs, the Bible's book of wisdom, says that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10), but "the fear of man will prove to be a snare. Whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe." (Proverbs 29:25)

The conclusion? Love, and fear not.

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